

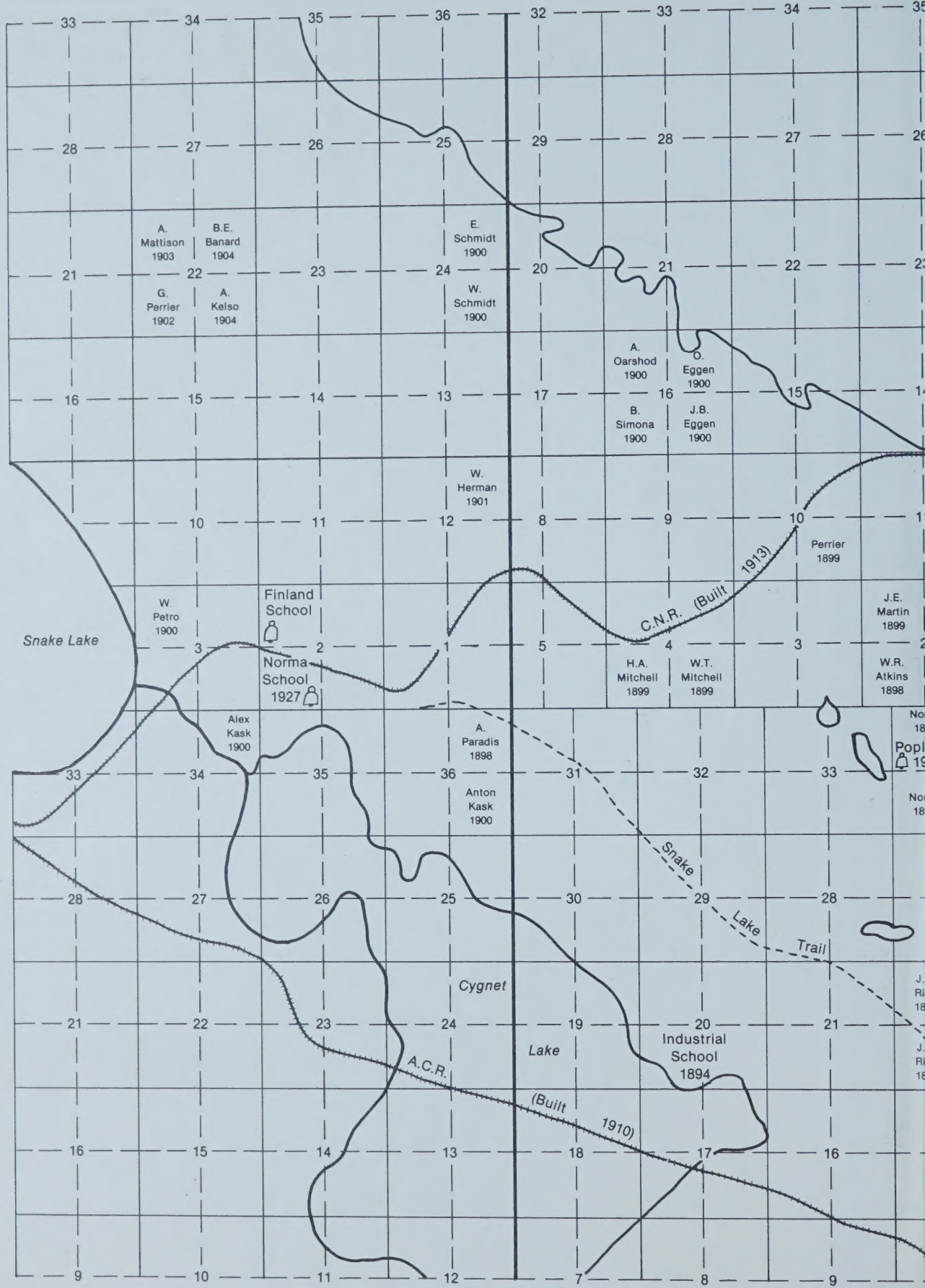
THE DISTRICTS' DIARY

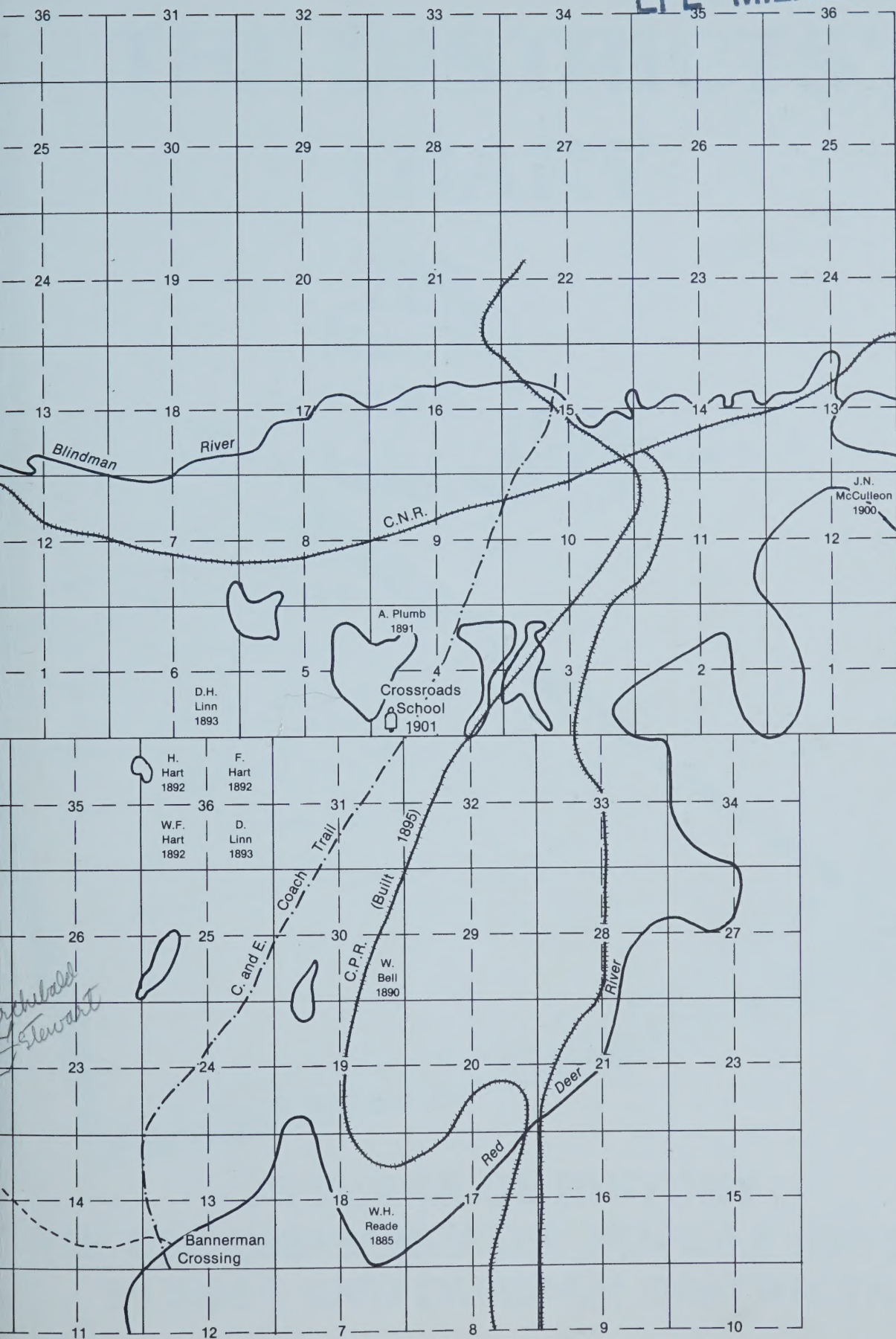


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**95 YEARS OF HISTORY
OF THE CROSSROADS, POPLAR RIDGE,
NORMA AND DURHAM DISTRICTS**



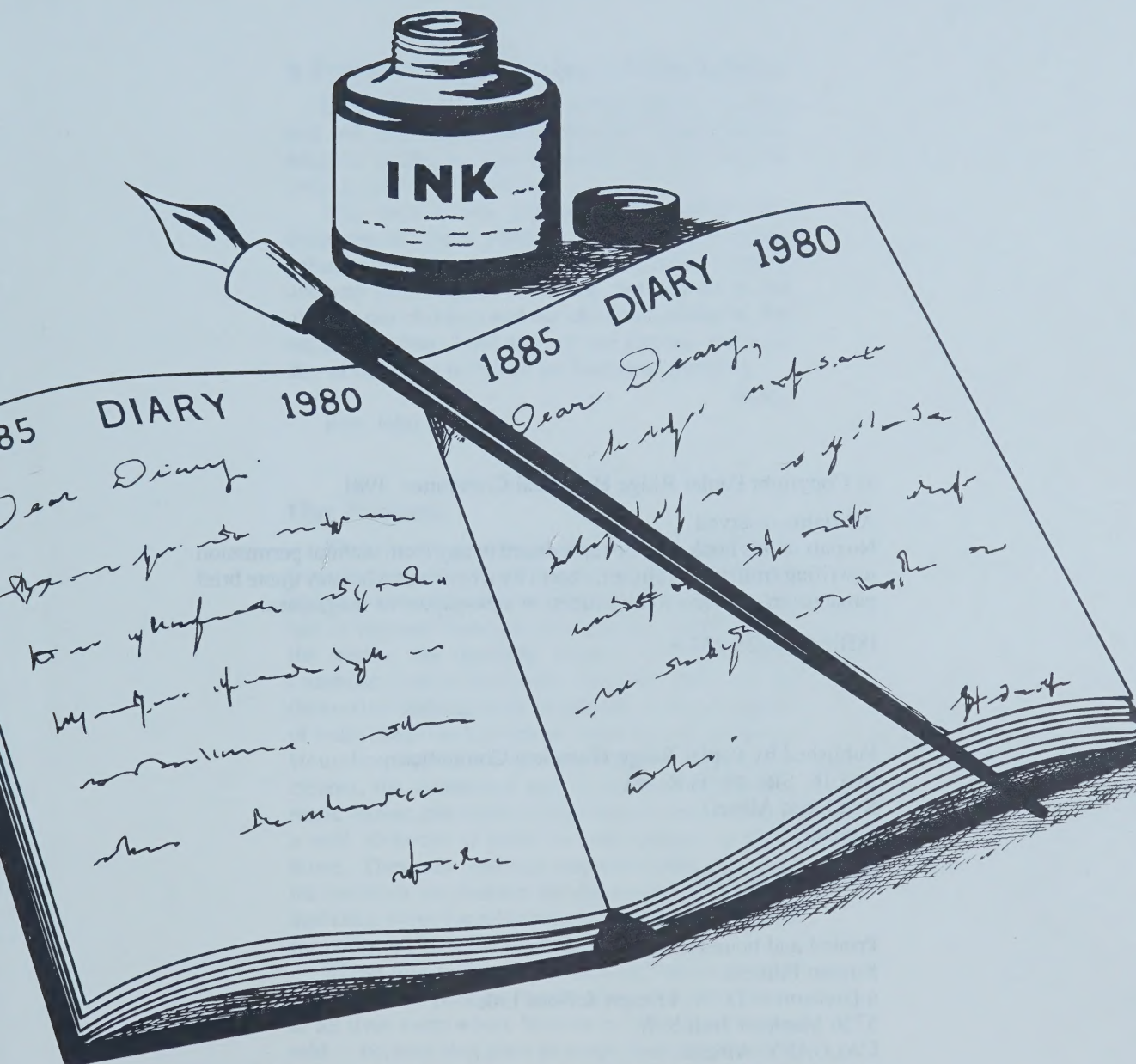




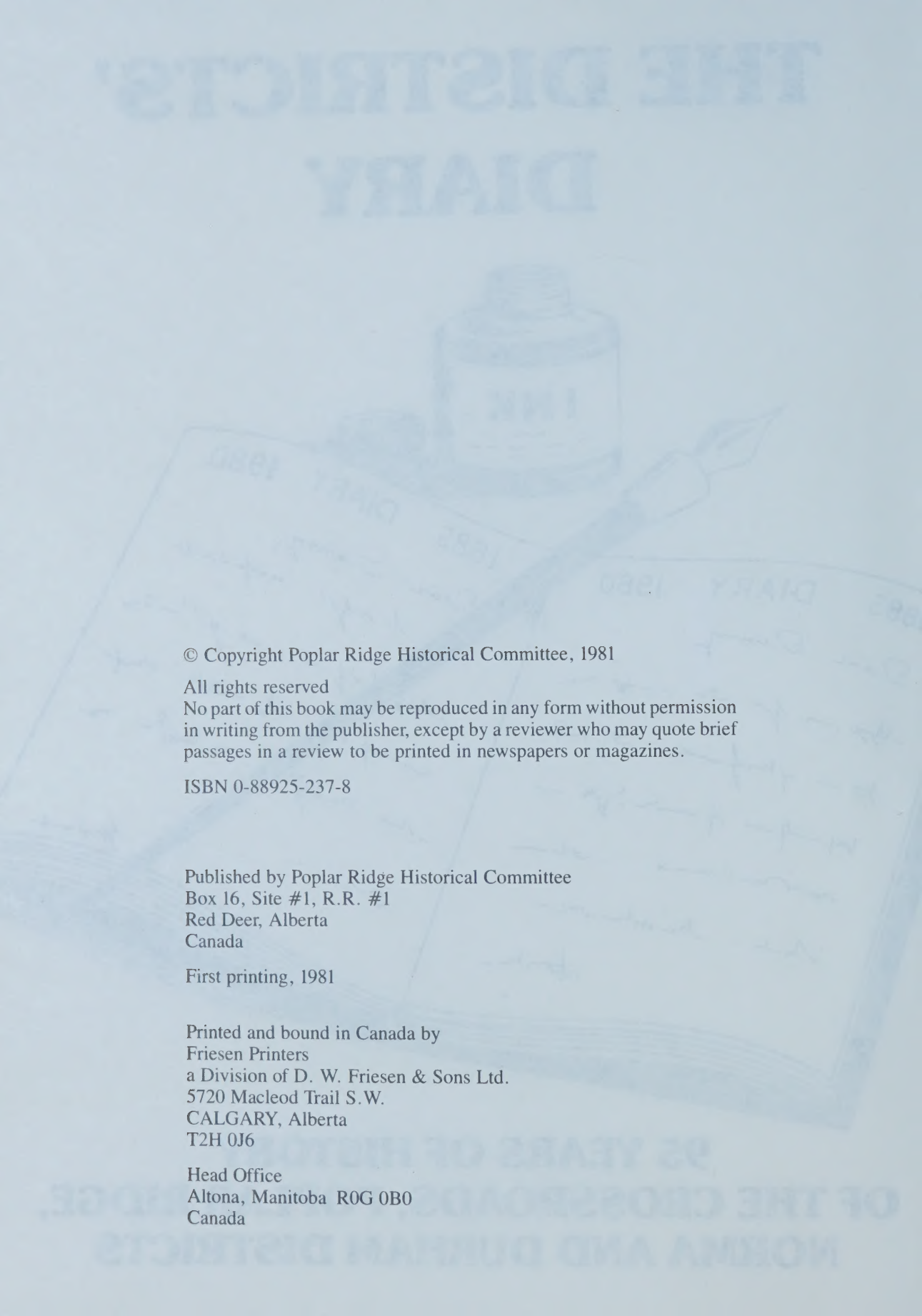
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THE DISTRICTS' DIARY



**95 YEARS OF HISTORY
OF THE CROSSROADS, POPLAR RIDGE,
NORMA AND DURHAM DISTRICTS**



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Ecclesiastes

Chapter 1:4

One generation passeth away,
and another generation cometh:
but the earth abideth forever.

A Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication:

Lord God of Hosts, our loving Father, we pray that we, who have entered into the heritage of our father's, might be truly thankful for their vision, courage and self-sacrifice.

May these words, penned in love and out of a deep respect for a people's tradition, be a fitting tribute that will keep alive, forever, their memory; and may such a legacy of faith be, not only for us, but also for our children and our children's children. For we are mindful, Lord God of our fathers, that each day of our lives is "lived on borrowed property."

Amen.

Rev. John D. Yoos.

Our Pioneers

Their lives spanned the change in transportation from buggies, sleighs and wagons drawn by horses to the mass transportation era of the airplane; the methods in farming from the horse drawn implement to the tractor; the threshing machine to the modern combine; communication changed from riding (horses) or walking to the neighbors, to the telephone of today; radio to television; silent movies to audio. Housekeeping shifted from the broom to the vacuum cleaner; the washboard and clothesline to the automatic washer and dryer; refrigeration from cooling in a well, icehouse or cellar to a refrigerator in every home. They saw medical improvements including the smallpox vaccination; the discovery of insulin for diabetics; cures for tuberculosis and the Salk vaccine for polio, and lived through two world wars.

These true pioneers, the unsung builders of our country — the people who contributed so very much to all lives everywhere deserve to have their stories told — because they gave us a superhighway to travel in place of the old rutted dirt road filled with hardship and sacrifice. I thank them; they gave their all for us. If we handled our heritage incorrectly — let the blame lie with us — the honor goes to them.

— Florence Kellington Currie



THE PREMIER OF ALBERTA

403/427-2251

Legislative Building
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

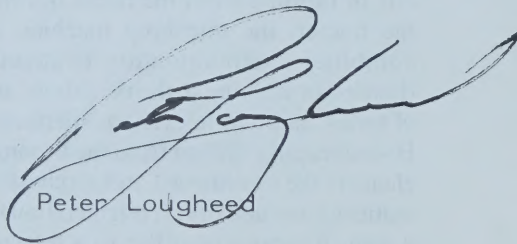
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MESSAGE FROM PREMIER LOUGHEED

I am delighted to have an opportunity to contribute to this book, depicting the history of the Crossroads, Poplar Ridge, Norma and Durham School Districts.

This book will undoubtedly prove to be a source of both inspiration and valuable information, enabling citizens to appreciate the achievements of early pioneers and the tremendous contribution they have made to the development and character of Alberta.

My warm best wishes to the Red Deer West Historical Committee who have taken the initiative to compile this history, and to all those who will have opportunity to reflect upon its contents.



Peter Lougheed



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CANADA

OTTAWA, K1A 0A6
1981

TO THE RESIDENTS OF
CROSSROADS, DURHAM, NORMA AND POPLAR RIDGE

Dear Friends:

Congratulations are in order for each of you, for taking pen in hand, while yet there is time, to record the history of the pioneers in your respective communities.

Time being elusive, when once lost is gone forever, points to the significance of your effort in seizing the present and making it your own by indelibly inscribing in the annals of history, the events that took place in this portion of the West.

It is good that the privations, the failures, the successes of the early pioneer be recorded before memories fade into oblivion.

It is important for your children and grandchildren to have the privilege of perusing the pages of "DISTRICT DIARY", so they too, have an understanding upon which to build.

No generation can know where it is going until it understands from whence it came. It is a wise people that will draw from its heritage and build on that solid foundation.

In the days to come you have earned the right to enjoy an inner satisfaction, knowing you have done your job well.

No one can give more.

Sincerely

Gordon Towers, M.P.
Red Deer

Historical Committees



Historical Committee. Back row, L. to R.: Janet Walters, Irene Ammeter, Katherine Sonnenberg, Sara Carlyle, Mary Ritchie, Ruth Stewart. Second row: Ray Bertram, Joan Lamb, Freda Bertram, Mina Reiswig, Dorothea Roth, Janet Clark, Heather Sjare, Joe Lewis. Front row: Bea Ward, Dode Lewis, Mary Krogman, Vera Gaukler, Sue Park, Germaine Maga. Missing: Linda Edgar (secretary-typist), Jack and Helen Moore, Joyce Ilcisin, Joe Roth, Olive Duval, Henry Landry.



Red Deer West Senior Historical Society. Back row, L. to R.: Walter Martin, Jim Park, Verna Martin, Sue Park, Henry Pickering, Dorothea Roth, Mina Reiswig, Ray Bertram, Freda Bertram. Front row: Jack Moore, Vera Gaukler (president), Bea Ward (secretary-treasurer), Joe Roth. Missing: Ada Hagerman, Henry Ward.



Editors of History Book. Dode Lewis, Poplar Ridge: Mary Krogman, Crossroads; Vera Gaukler, Norma; Sue Park, Durham.



Linda Edgar, secretary and typist of the Historical Committee.



President Mary Krogman and Treasurer Ruth Stewart, Historical Committee. Wall murals in Community Centre were painted by Mrs. Florence Aubuchon, 1980.

Acknowledgements

Many people have put hours of volunteer work into the creation of this book. We take this opportunity to say “thank you” to some individuals and organizations, who have given so much time and effort. First and foremost to all who sent their histories and precious pictures; to Michael Dawe of the Red Deer and District Archives, who spent countless hours getting information for the editors of each district; to the seniors of the area who helped as a New Horizons group; to Florence Aubuchon for the cover art work, to Louise Pickering, who sent in the title chosen by the committee, from 55 titles submitted; to Mrs. Lucile Wiley who donated the prize for the contest; to the County of Red Deer; to the Poplar Ridge Community Center for the use of the hall; to New Horizons; to C.K.R.D. for on air time; to Alberta’s 75th Birthday Committees, Alberta Culture, and to the Rural mail carriers whose work load must have been made much greater.

We hope we have not missed anyone and we apologize if we have.

The Poplar Ridge Historical Committee

*Don't forget to
send in your
entry by Feb. 28, 2019*

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Our Homeland

Anonymous

Alberta is our homeland, a province large in size .
Where prairies stretch for many miles beneath the
clear blue skies,
Where mountains rear their lofty heads, and rushing
rivers flow,
Where, in the north, the spruce and pine in cool
green forests grow;
In between are parklands, where grass and trees are
found,
And deep below our homeland lie treasures in the
ground.
The Indians found this pleasant land, and lived by
hunting game;
Into the west, in search of furs the daring traders
came.
The men of God, the Mounties, and hardy pioneers
Changed wilderness to homelands. In the succeeding
years
Our province has developed, our population grown,
And now a million people claim Alberta as their
own.

Our Rural Beginnings

The Surveyors

Red Deer and District Archives

Some of Western Canada's earliest and hardest pioneers are often forgotten. These are the surveyors. They endured great hardships, including swamps, mosquitoes, floods, fierce weather, and prairie fires, in order to map out the land and provide a guide for the coming homesteaders. In the words of Ralph Allen, they were the last white men to see Canada first.

The first surveyors in the area northwest of Red Deer were part of a party who, in 1880, mapped out the fifth principal meridian. This party was headed by Montague Aldous of Charlottetown, P.E.I., who was later to hold the position of surveyor-in-chief to the Hudson's Bay Company.

In 1883, another party of surveyors arrived, headed by Tom Kains of St. Thomas, Ontario. This party mapped out the 10th Base line and the meridian lines near the 5th Initial Meridian. During the same year, a party headed by C. A. Magrath of Alymer, Quebec, mapped out the 11th Base line from the 4th Initial Meridian to west of the 5th Initial Meridian.

In 1884, a party headed by M. J. Charbonneau of St. Boniface, Manitoba, did township surveys of Townships 36, 37, 38, and 39 in Ranges 26, 27, and 28, all west of the 4th, and Townships 37 and 38, Range 1, west of the 5th. It was followed by a group headed by J. McAree of Toronto, Ontario, who in 1887, surveyed Townships 39, Ranges 1 and 2, west of the 5th Meridian.

The official reports filed by these various surveyors contain some interesting accounts. M. Aldous reported that he had found the area to be a "magnificent stretch of partially wooded country with a rich black loam". He described the Blindman River as "a clear rapid stream from thirty to forty yards wide" and reported that Swan (Burnt) Lake was "about six miles long by two wide . . . very shallow . . . (with) grass and reeds extending a long way out into the lake". Most interestingly, he wrote that "the Red Deer River is a fine stream, about 150 yards wide,

similar in appearance to the north and south branches of the Saskatchewan. I have never heard of there being any rapids or other impediments to navigation between this point and its confluence with the South Saskatchewan, and am of the opinion that steamers, such as run up to Edmonton, will in the future, navigate at least as far up as this point."

Tom Kains, in his reports stated that the soil was "generally first class," and noted that the area north of the Red Deer River was "heavily timbered with poplar" with "some fine spruce close to the river." He also recorded that "quite a settlement is found in townships 37 and 38, Range 28 in the vicinity of the Red Deer River and Bow River Trail."

M. J. Charbonneau made a similar report and found that "the soil is a good black loam, four to eighteen inches deep, and classes 1 and 2." He felt that generally the area was "well watered and well suited for farming" although he was of the opinion that the area near the Blindman River was "better suited for stock raising than farming."

The Canadian National Railway

Red Deer and District Archives

In 1908 and 1909, rich coal fields were discovered in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains west of Rocky Mountain House. In April 1910, the German Development Company and Mackenzie and Mann, the railway magnates behind the Canadian Northern Railway, formed a company by the name of Brazeau Collieries to exploit these newly-found coal fields. Shortly thereafter, Mackenzie, Mann and Co. announced that they would construct a rail line from Stewartwyn, near Stettler, to the Brazeau coalfield, in order to gain access to the holdings of the new company.

Mackenzie, Mann and Co. wasted very little time in getting started. By August 1910, they had presented to the federal railroad authorities for approval, a route map, even though they had not done any significant surveying. They were able to do this by borrowing heavily from surveys and plans made by



Building the C.N. Railway, 1911, near Prevo. Henry Webber on push cart, Alex Turner over mule's head.



Henry Webber on push cart, John Bigam on dump wagon.



John Bigam, second from left. The push cart, pushed and pulled by horses, would push the dirt up to the elevator. From the elevator the dirt would be loaded into the carts and hauled to build the grade.

the Alberta Central Railway in the winter of 1909 and 1910, which had been placed on file in Ottawa in March 1910. The proposed route of the C.N.R. followed the A.C.R.'s route so closely that in one thirty mile stretch the two lines would intersect five times.

Not surprisingly, the Dominion government balked at approving this kind of duplication and it directed the C.N.R. to move its proposed line farther to the north. In the meantime, approval was given to the planned route from Stewartwyn to Range 25.

The C.N.R. was in no mood to slow down, and by September 23rd, it had pushed its grading to a point which was just east of Blackfalds and some twenty-five to thirty miles west of the federally set limit of Range 25. The C.N.R. also despatched parties of surveyors to work on a new route west of Blackfalds and by November 9, these surveyors had progressed as far as Eckville.

In later November, Mackenzie, Mann and Co. decided to seek a charter from the provincial government in part to avoid some of the entanglements with the federal railroad authorities, and in part to secure a bonding power of \$35,000 per mile. Previously, they had been relying on a charter granted to a subsidiary company, the Alberta Midland Railway, and a Dominion charter granted to the German Development Company. As might be expected, the bill to grant the charter caused a stormy debate in the Alberta Legislature, particularly from those who were friendly to the Alberta Central Railway. However, the charter was eventually granted with the name of the new

railway to be "The Canadian Northern Western Railway Co.". The provisional directors were Frank H. Phippen, Gerald Ruel, George F. Macdonnell, Reginald Temple, and J. H. Phippen. Those men held only 60 of the 20,000 shares in the new company with Mackenzie, Mann and Co. holding the rest. The charter also expressly allowed the C.N.W.R. to make agreements with the Canadian Northern Railway to sell or lease the line.

In February 1911, the surveys were practically completed to Rocky Mountain House and the Provincial Government agreed to guarantee the bonds of the C.N.W.R. The Northern Construction Co., a subsidiary of Foley, Welch and Stewart, in which Mack-



Old steamer on C.N.R.



C.N. section house, home of Mr. and Mrs. Chris Petersen, 1921.

CANADIAN NORTHERN RAILWAY

277

Miles from Strathcona	CANADIAN NORTHERN RAILWAY—STRATHCONA AND CALGARY BRANCH (Projected)	Elevation above mean sea level
117-7	Grade, south boundary, S.E. $\frac{1}{4}$, 5-35-27, W. 4.....	3,235
122-7	Grade, S.W. $\frac{1}{4}$, 7 and N.W. $\frac{1}{4}$, 6-34-27, W. 4 M.....	3,219
127-7	Grade, N.E. and S.E. $\frac{1}{4}$, 17-33-27, W. 4 M.....	3,107
131-9	Spruce coulee, water, 2,941; grade.....	3,042
135-6	Grade, S.W. $\frac{1}{4}$, 14 and N.W. $\frac{1}{4}$, 11-32-27, W. 4.....	3,126
140-7	Grade, S.E. $\frac{1}{4}$, 22 and N.E. $\frac{1}{4}$, 15-31-27, W. 4.....	3,051
141-2	Lone Pine creek, high water, 3,029; water, 3,024; grade.....	3,041
143-7	Grade, S.E. $\frac{1}{4}$, 3-31-27 and N.E. $\frac{1}{4}$, 33-30-27, W. 4.....	3,040
150-0	Grade, S.E. $\frac{1}{4}$, 4-30-27 and N.E. $\frac{1}{4}$, 33-29-27, W. 4.....	3,179
158-0	Rosebud creek, water, 3,030; grade.....	3,157
165-4	Crossfield creek, water, 3,133; grade.....	3,249
168-9	Grade, S.E. $\frac{1}{4}$, 6-27-27 and N.E. $\frac{1}{4}$, 36-26-28, W. 4.....	3,308
175-2	Grade, S.E. $\frac{1}{4}$, 1-26-28 and N.E. $\frac{1}{4}$, 36-25-28, W. 4.....	3,408
181-5	Grand Trunk Pacific Ry., Calgary branch, crossing.....	3,459
186-7	Grade, S.W. $\frac{1}{4}$, 18-24-28 and S.E. $\frac{1}{4}$, 13-24-29, W. 4 M.....	3,457
189-6	Junction switch.....	3,429
190-0	Barlow, junction with Saskatoon and Calgary branch, 393.3 miles from Saskatoon.....	3,428

CANADIAN NORTHERN RAILWAY—BRAZEAU BRANCH

Miles from Warden		
0-0	Warden, junction with Battle River branch, 109.5 miles from Vegreville.....	2,724
0-6	Junction switch.....	2,724
7-4	Oberlin station.....	2,728
12-3	Nevis station.....	2,618
15-2	Sucker creek, bed, 2,519; rail.....	2,571
20-2	Alix station.....	2,598
22-6	Grand Trunk Pacific Ry., Calgary branch, crossing, G. T. P. Ry., rail, 2,622; C. N. Ry., rail.....	2,648
25-4	Summit, ground, 2,671; rail.....	2,656
27-4	Coghill station.....	2,628
33-6	Haynes station.....	2,839
37-2	Summit.....	2,961
40-6	Brookley station.....	2,893
45-9	Prentiss station.....	2,966
51-1	Grade.....	2,857
54-4	Grade.....	2,776
55-0	Lacombe junction, with Strathcona and Calgary branch (projected) Farrant station.....	2,780
59-2	Blindman river, water, 2,720; grade.....	2,818
60-0	Junction (west) with Strathcona and Calgary branch (projected) Canadian Pacific Ry., Edmonton branch, crossing, C.P.Ry., rail, 2,828; C.N.Ry., rail.....	2,839
60-8	Blindman station.....	2,856
65-5	Creek, bed, 2,855; rail.....	2,911
67-4	Tannis station.....	3,043
71-0	Norma station.....	3,138
75-0	Sylvan Lake station.....	3,079
80-0	Grade.....	3,239
81-0	Elspeth station.....	3,252
83-9	Medicine river, bed, 2,993; rail.....	3,046
89-1	Eckville station.....	3,044
96-4	Withrow station.....	3,078
96-6	Blueberry creek, bed, 3,023; rail.....	3,080
99-1	Summit.....	3,156

enzie, Mann and Co. had an interest, was given the contract for the construction west of Red Deer.

For the months of March and April, the northern Construction Co. devoted itself to freighting in necessary construction materials before the roads broke

up in the spring. Surveyors were also sent out to put in the grade stakes along the line.

At the beginning of May, the Northern Construction Co. began grading and brushing work north of Red Deer and west towards Sylvan Lake. Camps were quickly established along the line with one located eight miles west of Red Deer and another fifteen miles west. By mid May, the Northern Construction Co. had some 2,300 teams and more than that number of men, at work west of Red Deer.

While all this feverish work was going on, the C.N.W.R. was busy locating possible station sites at Sylvan Lake, Eckville and Leslieville. The Canadian Northern announced that it was investigating the possibility of erecting a mammoth summer hotel at Sylvan Lake.

The work on the C.N.W.R. was not without its problems and delays. The years 1911 and 1912 were extremely wet and the roads were very bad, thereby making the movement of men, horses, equipment and construction materials very difficult. The C.N.W.R. often faced legal problems with trespass because of an inability to secure the right-of-way fast enough. At one point, the C.N.W.R. faced five restraining injunctions from the Saskatchewan Land and Homestead Company alone.

The C.N.W.R. was also involved in extremely fierce competition with the Alberta Central Railway whose line it paralleled. The A.C.R. sought and received injunctions preventing the C.N.W.R. from crossing its properties, particularly in the Rocky Mountain House area. The C.N.W.R., where possible, put its grade up to six feet above the A.C.R. grades where the two lines crossed.

There were a few incidents of violence between the men of the two companies. In late October 1910, a survey crew of the C.N.W.R. got involved in a pro-



C.N. track crew, John DeSmet, Bill Biggs, Chris Petersen, 1920's.

longed fist fight with an A.C.R. crew, which the Red Deer Advocate described as a near riot. Later in 1911, a C.N.W.R. crew tossed into nearby slough, several A.C.R. constables who were guarding the A.C.R. right-of-way. The A.C.R. responded by having the C.N.W.R. men arrested, transported to Red Deer, and left there to find their own way back out west.

By July 1911, the Northern Construction Co. had

begun to lay steel. By September 8, they had reached the Blindman River, where they were held up by a court injunction granted to the Saskatchewan Land and Homestead Company and by the need to build a large trestle across the river valley. By October, the C.N.W.R. had managed to have all the court injunctions along its line removed and the laying of steel continued rapidly, sometimes at a rate of three miles a day. By late October, steel had reached Sylvan Lake.

Once freeze-up came, the Northern Construction Co. continued to blast some cuts between Eckville and Leslieville. The last of the grading was finished up and a decision was made to lay some of the steel over muskeg in order to help move in supplies for next year's work. Government surveyors were hired to map out the various C.N.W.R. townsites.

With the coming of spring, construction of the line moved ahead rapidly and by April steel had reached Leslieville. By June, some people were shipping freight in and out over the new line. On June 10, 1912, the line was completed to Rocky Mountain House, with J. H. Bertrand driving the last spike at this point.

For the rest of 1912 and 1913, the C.N.W.R. was pushed on to the Brazeau coal fields. Ballasting of the track and construction of station grounds were carried out between Red Deer and Rocky Mountain House. Repairs were made to the track where the rapid construction was all too evident. For example, the trestle at Poplar Ridge sank three feet shortly after it was built.

By March 1914, trains were running every day and regular shipments of coal from Nordegg began to



Old C.N.R. trestle removed in winter of 1979-80.



New trestle built in 1979 on section 12-39-28-W4, old trestle on left.



New C.N.R. trestle completed.

be made. It was in August 1914 that the whole line was officially completed.

The C.N.W.R. became eventually part of the Canadian National Railway system and like the A.C.R. line to the south, it helped the farmers by opening up the country between Red Deer and Rocky Mountain House. Among the many people who helped work on the road were such contractors as Mike Madden, H. J. Griffith, F. M. Mahon, Boomer and Hughes, Carrol and Harvey W. D. Maxey. Right-of-way agents were G. A. Mantel and R. Johnston. Some of the doctors who worked for the C.N.W.R. were Drs. Collison and Grey at Red Deer and Dr. Honey at Eckville.

From Trails to Highways

When the early homesteaders arrived it was a long journey from Calgary to Red Deer by stage coach or team and wagon. This trail entered this history area as it crossed the Red Deer River at Bannerman Crossing.

As there were times when the river was in flood stage, crossing became almost impossible. To provide lodging for the drivers and travellers, stopping houses were built, generally one on each side of a river. One of these stopping houses was built on the N.E. of section 24-38-28-W4 and one was also built on the south side of the Blindman River. The trail was between these two points.

In 1895 the C.P.R. was completed and from then on most travel was done by rail.

Another trail, the ruts of which can still be found in uncultivated land, left the Calgary-Edmonton Coach trail just north of the Bannerman Crossing and headed northwesterly towards Snake (Sylvan) Lake. It followed the high land through the Poplar Ridge and Norma districts. Other branches of this trail are still visible in undisturbed land.

A wooden bridge was apparently built across the Red Deer River in 1894 only to be taken out with the ice in the spring of 1895. A second attempt was made in 1901 which also failed when ice again took it out the following spring. This was a double span bridge, and the remaining span was moved to the Blindman River where it is still used on the old Calgary-Edmonton road. A third bridge was then constructed across the Red Deer, which withstood the rivers fury in the spring breakup.

By this time Red Deer was beginning to take shape at its present location and the activity at the old crossing was dwindling. The Calgary-Edmonton Trail then crossed the Red Deer River and climbed the river hills to the northwest. It continued in this direction until it intersected the C.P.R. where it headed straight north past the Crossroads school. From

here, as it still does, it continued north, crossing the C.N.R. and C.P.R. right of ways before reaching the Blindman River. The ford at the river was about a quarter of a mile east of the old bridge site.

This was the Calgary-Edmonton Trail until what is now known as Highway 2A was built in the late 1940's. Traffic increased on this highway until it was decided a divided highway was necessary and in the fall of 1962 a ribbon cutting ceremony on the new bridge over the Blindman River marked the opening of the divided highway. This four lane divided highway became Highway 2 and by-passed all of the small towns between Calgary and Edmonton.



Ribbon cutting ceremony, Blindman River Bridge on Highway 2, 1962.



W. J. Christian grading the Sylvan Lake Trail.

With the closing of the old Bannerman Crossing the Sylvan or Snake Lake trail also changed. It left the Calgary-Edmonton trail just north of Red Deer and travelled west one mile then north for one mile. At this point it went west on what is known as Highway 11. This trail for many years was a mud rutted trail maintained by the local people of the area with drags pulled by horses. With the increase in traffic it was given a coat of gravel and in 1952 it was widened and paved to its present state.

In 1979 it was decided that the traffic load was too heavy and surveying was done for a new highway. Leaving Red Deer at the Highway 2 and 67 street overpass it was surveyed west skirting Burnt Lake and continuing west just south of Sylvan Lake. As of 1980 construction had not started.



Single Euclid used on the Sylvan Lake Highway by Lamb Construction, one of five in Alberta, 1952.



Construction of Sylvan Lake Highway, 1952.

Red Deer West R. E. A.

The Red Deer West Rural Electrification Association was formed in February of 1949.

The officers at that time were; President — Fred Harvey of Poplar Ridge, Secretary — Frank Depalme of Shady Nook. The following were Directors: Ben Roth and Les Edgar of Crossroads, Ray Bertram and Hal Thompson of Poplar Ridge and Mark Armitage of Shady Nook.

The area was canvassed and it was decided to go ahead at the price of \$875.00 per farm.

Brushing of the lines was done voluntarily and each member was responsible for his own brushing. Tamperers were paid 75¢ an hour.

W. F. Harvey was president until 1959. Les Edgar took over that year and was president until 1974. Jim Murray became secretary in 1957 and still holds that office in 1981. Glen Armitage is now president.

Municipalities and Counties of the History Area.

The south portion of the History area was at one time part of the Municipal district of Golden West #371 formed in 1918. That portion of the area north of the Sylvan Lake Trail, was in the Municipality of Lacombe.

The Golden West office was located at Sylvan Lake and the Lacombe office at Lacombe.

In the Golden West M.D., there were nine councillors and one secretary-treasurer. The Reeve was appointed by the councillors.

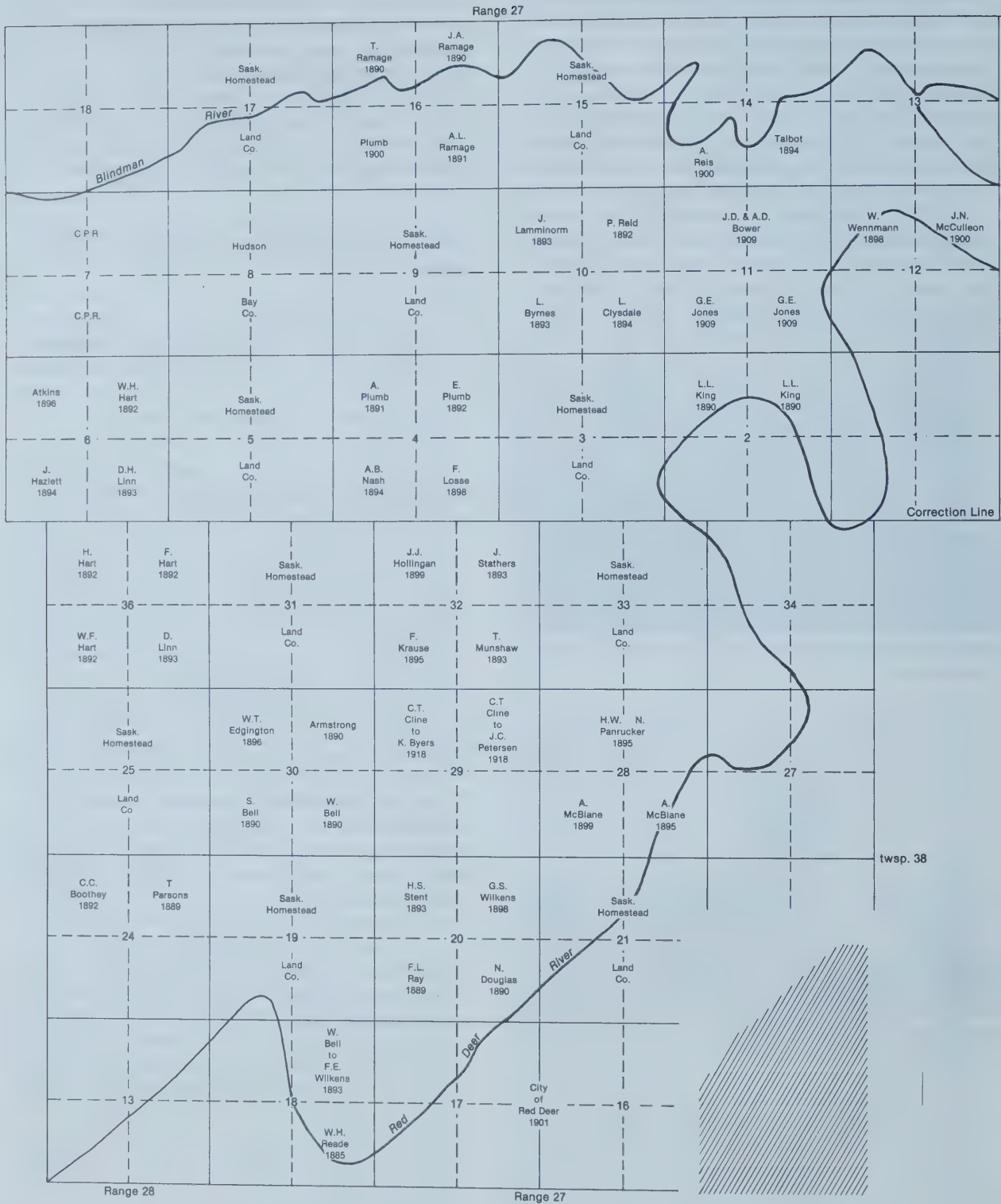
In December, 1943, the enlarged municipality was formed. It was called the M.D. of Penhold #350, with offices in Red Deer. It contained eleven divisions. R. H. Edgar of the Crossroads district, former Reeve of the M.D. of Golden West, was named Reeve of the enlarged M.D.

In 1945, it was renamed the M.D. of Red Deer #55. Councillors were Pearson, Pennock, Kelly, Brewster, Doan, Ririe, Bickford, Towers, Wilton, Hillman, Edgar (Reeve).

In 1955, co-terminus boundaries coincided with the municipal district boundaries. The divisions were reduced to seven. Councillors at this time were, Prud'homme, Howell, Sheets, Pearson, Erickson, Braithwaite and Doan. Cliff Doan was the Reeve at this time. At this time all of the history area, except Durham, was included in the Red Deer M.D.

On January 1, 1963, the County of Red Deer #23 was formed. The municipal council remained at seven councillors plus one trustee from each town and village within the municipal boundaries. Municipal and school government is the same today (1980). The Reeve and Deputy-Reeve are appointed by the councillors, the chairman and vice-chairman of the school committee are selected by members of the school committee. Councillors and school committee members serve a three year term, while the Reeve and the Chairman are appointed yearly.

In 1981, the Reeve of the County is Bill Mills and the Chairman of the School committee is Mrs. Pat Blakely.



CROSSROADS HOMESTEADERS

Crossroads

Homesteaders of the Crossroads Area

In some books the Crossroads area was considered to be between the Blindman and the Red Deer Rivers. When the earliest pioneers arrived there were, of course, no school districts formed. When they were established, the west line was on the west side of the following sections, 6 and 7, north of the Sylvan Lake Trail (Highway 11), 36, 25, 24 and 13, on the south side. This school boundary still exists today.

Saskatchewan Land Homestead Company, by all accounts purchased almost every other section in the area through some land deal with the government. Section 7 was deeded to the C.P.R. and 8 was owned by the Hudson Bay Company.

From Homestead maps at the Red Deer and District Museum and Archives, it seems that W. H. Reade was the first homesteader in the area. His name appears on the S.W. of 18-38-27-W4. He arrived in 1885. This land today is the beautiful Red Deer Golf and Country Club.

In 1889, two more homesteaders arrived. T. Parsons filed on the N.E. 24-38-28. Land on which the Burnt Lake Auction Mart is now situated. F. L. Ray chose the S.W. 20-38-27, land that is now a part of the City of Red Deer.

The year, 1890, saw five claims made in the area. N. Douglas filed on the quarter east of Rays in section 20. Three quarters of section 30 were filed on with W. and S. Bell getting the south half and Armstrong choosing the N.E. quarter. The same year L. L. King homesteaded the north half of section 2-39-27. This land lay north of the bend in the Red Deer River.

In 1891, Amos Plumb homesteaded the N.W. of 4-39-27 and A. L. Ramage filed on the S.E. of 16.

In 1892, C. C. Boothey filed on the N.W. of section 24, E. Plumb took up the N.E. of 4, and Peter Reid filed on the N.E. of 10-39-27. This same year also saw Fred Hart come to the N.E. of section 36 on March, 29. To this day (1981) there are still descendants of this family farming the land. W. H. Hart,

Henry and Jack Hart also came and took up the west half of 36 and the N.E. of 6.

D. Linn came in 1893, taking the last quarter of 36. It is of interest to note that this was the first complete section to be homesteaded in the area. D. H. Linn chose the S.E. of section 6. This land is now Linn Valley Subdivision, being named after the original homesteader. The same year also saw J. Stathers and T. Munshaw settle on the N.E. and S.E. of 32 respectively. H. S. Stent, a noted judge of that era, also took up the remaining quarter of section 20. The N.W. of section 10 was also taken by J. Lamminorm, and the S.W. of the same section was taken that year by L. Byrnes.

1894 saw the S.W. and S.E. of 24 filed on by J. A. Lewis and C. F. E. Eggleton respectively. The same year the Nash family came to section 4. This quarter was where the construction of the Crossroads school was started five years later. The S.W. of section 6 became home for J. (Paddy) Hazlett and his family of young children. The final quarter of section 10 was taken up by L. Clysdale. 1894 also saw the N.E. of 14 taken by R. Talbot.

In 1895, three of the quarters of section 28 were filed on, the north half going to H. W. and N. Panrucker and the S.E. to A. McBlane. The S.W. of 32 was taken by F. Krause.

1896 saw only two homesteads filed in the area. W. T. Edgington chose the N.W. of 30 and Atkins filed on the N.W. of section 6.

In 1897, only one new homesteader arrived, that being J. J. Holligan. He took up the N.W. of 32.

Three new homesteads were taken in 1898, G. S. Wilkins filed on the N.E. of 20, F. Losse on the S.E. of 4, and W. Wennmann on the N.W. of 12.

In 1899, A. McBlane took up the quarter west of his original homestead in section 28.

The turn of the century saw A. Reis file on the S.W. of 14, McCullon on the N.E. of 12 and L. Plumb on the S.W. of 16.

1909 was the next date to be found on the map

with J. D. and A. D. Bower filing on the north half of 11 and G. E. Jones, the south half of the same section.

Crossroads School

The Crossroads school district was established on May 1, 1899. The sum of 750 dollars was borrowed, and with the help of the homesteaders, the first school was built on the S.W. 4-39-27-W4. The land for the school was donated by Mr. A. B. Nash.

A January, 1901, page from the first school register shows the following pupils in attendance: Robert and Alfred Howard; Willie Hart; Annie and Willie Krause; Annie, Ernest and Louise Losse; Mabel, John and George McAuley; Vernon, Percy, Isobell and Ena Nash; Willie and Thomas Hazlett; Oscar Bailey; May Hart and Harry Brownrigge.

The total of 20 pupils was increased to 26 by June 1st with the addition of the Reid family, Burns, Mary and Oliver; Sarah Hazlett, John Collins and Walter Hart. Miss Hettie M. Keast was the first teacher.

Miss Keast was followed by A. T. Stephenson who taught only a short time before going to fight in the Boer War. The next four years were taught by J. A. Mason, R. E. Turnbull and N. D. Reid. Although this is not a complete list of all the teachers at the Crossroads school, the following people taught there at some time during the years. Mr. Sanns, Mr. Madison, Mr. Sharples, Miss Ross, Miss Sarah Custance, Mr. Gibson, Miss Tingley, Hazel Bell, Mabel Maxwell, Lila Rose, Ruby Klink, Barbara Burnett, Mary Smith, Joyce Russel, Mrs. Frizzell, Efie Reid, Mrs. Crossley, Mrs. Dye, Mrs. Gaino, Alma Roughead, Mrs. Javne, Mrs. Hankins, Mrs. Ryba, Mrs. Jarvin, Mrs. Lawrence and finally Mrs. Creelman. It is interesting to note that Lila Rose returned to

Crossroads as Mrs. Frizzell and taught sons and daughters of pupils she had taught years earlier.

After several ratepayers meetings, centralization won out, the school was closed and the children were bussed to River Glen. At this time there were grades one to six attending Crossroads. The following were the final pupils to attend classes, Alice, Evelyn, Peter and Pauline Kooiman; Linda Milne; Jim and Patty Edgar; Stewart Krogman; Yvonne Bodwell; Gwen Wilson; Brian and Bonnie Jahraus; Joe and Mary Lou Reed and Noreen Baldwin.

The school was used by the Seventh Day Adventists School and the Parkland School for Retarded Children for a short time.

The Nash Community Association was formed in hopes that the school could be kept as a central place for the community. It was decided that due to the close proximity to Red Deer there was little need for a community centre.

The land and school were bought by Mr. and Mrs. Guy Mullin and transformed into a beautiful home.

Lyla (Rose) Frizzell's Teaching Days at Crossroads

Lyla Rose taught at Crossroads in 1931. Some of the students she taught that year, Bill and Bob Edgar, Fred Neilson and Joe Duval, were present to meet with her at the Crossroads Home Coming on August 31, 1980. Of course, these were only a few of her class of that year.

Lyla married Elmer Frizzell in 1931 and moved from the area. When their son wanted to attend high school in Red Deer, Lyla Frizzell returned to teach at Crossroads. She taught from September of 1948 until June of 1950. During this time a small house was moved onto the school grounds for a teacherage.

Some of the names of the school register were quite familiar to Mrs. Frizzell as she was teaching a second generation. There were big changes made at this time, the old school was hauled away and the new school was built. The following pictures show the old school loaded and moving out, and the class in the new school.



Crossroads school 1962, back row L. to R.: Pauline Kooiman, Linda Milne, Patty Edgar, Mrs. Creelman, Alice Kooiman, Evelyn Kooiman, Gwen Wilson, Bonnie Jahraus. Front row L. to R.: Peter Kooiman, Jim Edgar, Stewart Krogman, Brian Jahraus.



Crossroads children say good-bye to old school as it is hauled away, 1948.



Classes in the new Crossroads school in 1948. Mrs. Lyla Frizzell was the teacher.

Mrs. R. C. Lawrence (Mary E. Latimer) Teacher at Crossroads 1959-1960

I taught at Crossroads from September 1, 1959, to June 30, 1960. There were seventeen students in grades one to five.

Because I had attended a country school for nine years myself, I looked forward to teaching in a school with many grades. This opportunity came when after two years of teaching in the Red Deer County, I married and moved to the city of Red Deer. The nearest school available at that time was Crossroads.

The school still had the old furnace. Fortunately, parents and several of the older boys took the responsibility of starting the furnace early in the morning. Also fortunately for us, the furnace was converted to gas before Christmas and we spent a comfortable, warm winter.

The students were always willing to assist each other and never do I remember having to "referee" a disagreement.

Our Christmas concert was one of the highlights of my year. After several years at the large schools where my class could have ten minutes on the programme, I really looked forward to an old-fashioned concert. The parents in the community assisted me, and my husband Dick, directed a group of adults in a play. They had as much fun rehearsing and performing as we did watching them.

The parents in the Community were always interested in their children's progress and I got to know all the parents, which was also something that had not happened in the larger centers. Many drove their children to school and always had time for a short visit or to make sure my car was started and I was able to get out of the yard on a stormy afternoon.

The thoughtfulness of the people in this community, and the understanding of the children for each other, no matter what age, will always be my fondest memory of teaching in a rural community.

There were other interesting occurrences, such as:

1. An endless number of jokes, or "Do you know what?" stories by Sandy Murray.
2. The time Mr. Kooiman had to come to school to get Peter out of grade one, to go home and find the parts to a carburetor he had taken apart the night before.
3. The time a mouse ate all the plants that we had started for a science project. I am terrified of mice, but I was so angry at that mouse that I lost my fear and moved cupboards and piano just as fast as the students. Fortunately for me, we did not find the mouse.

My Years At Crossroads Crossroads Teacher Creelman, May E.

My recollections of two years, September 1960 to June, 1962, teaching at Crossroads School are happy memories. The children from the families of Baldwin, Bodwell, Bill and Les Edgar, Jahraus, Kooiman, Krogman, Milne, Murray, Reed and Wilson were well behaved and imbued with a wholesome attitude toward life in general.

The one-roomed country schools of twenty years ago are seldom seen now except as Community Centres or renovated to serve as a dwelling, as you must have noticed the very attractive home that once was our Crossroads School. This was one rural school which could boast of possessing a basement. Herein were large storage bins for wood and coal, a small play area, and a large Waterbury furnace with a water pan to be filled once or twice a day to Supplement the humidity in the classroom. Most rural schools had the furnace, etc., in the corner of the classroom.

Most of our school days ran smoothly. Besides the regular classes there were extra curricular activities such as various field trips, Halloween, Valentine and Easter parties, and Christmas concerts. Two especially interesting and enjoyable events were the visits from our well known writer and naturalist, Kerry Wood and his wife, Marjorie; and from Miss Mina Cole, a long time school teacher and naturalist of Red Deer. These were memorable exploits into the field of nature.

I recall with qualms of trepidation, the occasion when the children coaxed for a balloon race at a school party. The object was to see who could be first to blow up a balloon causing it to burst. When there was a very sudden thud and Sandy Murray was on the floor in a faint. I distinctly recalled my husband, Rex's warning, "**Never** have a balloon race, the result may be someone fainting." I wonder if Sandy, who now is Dr. Murray of Red Deer, ever thinks of that incident.

One very encouraging and rewarding experience for me was when Patty Edgar was anxious to return to Crossroads School after a lonesome sojourn away from our midst.

Mrs. Bill Hazlett, affectionately known by all the pupils as "Aunt Sibyl", was very helpful whenever there was need of a phone message or any other assistance. Pupils had to be allotted their turn with any errand to her home as each was eager to go. They invariably returned with blowing accounts of the treat they received and the short visit with Aunt Sibyl.

One Christmas program the four Kooiman pupils sang two carols in Dutch for their grandparents who were visiting from Holland. When speaking of Christmas concerts I must say that Mrs. Cecil Baldwin kindly played the piano for all the programs.

It became a popular game during noon lunch to have the teacher guess what some of them had for noon lunch. One little girl asked if I could guess what she had for dessert that started with the letter "S". After several attempts of strawberries, snow pudding, etc., I gave up. She gleefully said, "Celery!"

At school closing in June 1962, there was the usual community picnic enjoyed by parents, visitors and children. I received a gift from my pupils and left Crossroads with feelings of nostalgia. It had been a good two years teaching my last one-roomed country school to which I drove each day from my home on the Clearview school grounds.

My Years At Crossroads

Crossroads Teacher

Nash, (Maxwell), Mabel

My tenure at Crossroads School was from January of 1927 to June, 1930. I answered an ad in the Red Deer Advocate and was interviewed by Sam Blakely and Fred Neilson, who hired me. My wages were about a thousand dollars a year, paid in ten installments. Each June, the School Board discussed the past school year. If rehired the teacher usually received a fifty dollar increase. By 1930 my wages were twelve hundred dollars.

The Crossroads school was similar to all rural schools. It was a square, painted building. The yard was well fenced and a hedge was planted along the front. It was bounded on the south by the Sylvan Lake Highway and a short distance from the Calgary-Edmonton Highway on the east. Inside there was a Waterbury Heater and a water cooler. The seats were assorted in sizes to fit pupils from six years to sixteen. The seats were attached to strips and could be moved around. There was ample library books, maps, a globe, chalk and ink. The pupils bought their scribblers, texts, pencils and pens with nibs. The

School Board was proud of their school and it was a credit to a rural district.

The routine of the school day was firmly established. It was opened by the Lord's Prayer, and a Bible reading. After roll call the teacher assigned work, usually giving personal attention to the little ones, while the other seven or eight grades did seat work. These work books were corrected later by the teacher.

The Department of Education was becoming increasingly concerned about school attendance. At the end of each month the teacher filled out a form, listing the absentee pupils. This was forwarded to the Department who contacted the parents. One family had land in two districts and as soon as the Department of Education caught up with them in one district, they promptly moved over into the other district, thus providing themselves with another safe month.

Each teacher had a day book and kept a record of subjects taught, exams given and marks recorded. As well, there was a time table. One Inspector said that no lesson should be more than ten minutes so the teacher prepared the lesson for the teaching and also planned work for other grades. The older pupils were usually very helpful and they supervised the younger ones. This eased the work-load of the teacher.



Mabel Maxwell at Crossroads school.

There was definately a social life in the district. During the winter, house dances were held. It wouldn't matter how small the house or how big the crowd everyone had a good time. The music was usually a fiddle played by Shorty Losse or as relief, a mouth organ played by different people. The ladies brought the lunch and the parties lasted until four o'clock. In June we had a picnic at Sylvan Lake. We were transported by truck as few people had cars. For many of the pupils it was their only association with a lake. The Christmas concert was a big event and was usually started in October when every recess and noon we practiced. The tree was brought in and everybody helped decorate. There were several things which today we regarded as hazards. One was the candles which were clipped on the branches and then lit. Another was the sparklers which were fastened to the tree and when lighted gave off a shower of sparks. The men and older boys kept a watchful eye on the tree and fortunately we had no accidents.

School Fairs were popular in that period. There were approximately twenty schools participating. The school districts donated twenty-five dollars each and this was divided by the number of academic classes. There was also the Agriculture Division

Thursday Afternoon

1:30—Registration.

2:00—General Session.

"O Canada"

Invocation ----- Canon Merrick

ADDRESSES OF WELCOME

Mr. H. J. Snell, Mayor of Red Deer.

Mr. W. J. Stephenson, Chairman of School Board

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

"With Allenby on the Last Crusade"

ADDRESS

"Albania, the Powder Magazine of Europe"

Mr. H. G. Scott, L.L.B.

3:30 o'clock

PUBLIC SCHOOL SECTION

"How to Keep a Six-Grade Room Busy"

Miss Mary Kent, Bentley.

HIGH SCHOOL SECTION

Chairman—Mr. R. L. Whitney, B.A.

"Demonstration Lesson in French I"

Mr. H. Ludwig, Eckville.

Thursday Evening

8:00 o'clock

In the United Church

A programme will be arranged of which the principal feature will be an address by Hon. Perren Baker, B.A., Minister of Education. Following this, there will be an entertainment in the High School Assembly Hall.

RED DEER Teachers' Association Annual Convention

To be held in the

ASSEMBLY HALL OF THE NEW HIGH
SCHOOL, RED DEER

THURSDAY AND FRIDAY
NOV. 15 & 16, 1928

OFFICERS

Hon. President---Hon. Perren Baker, B.A.
President ----- J. Welsh
Vice-President ----- H. Ludwig
Secretary ----- Miss D. Pyke
Executive—Mrs. Gill, Miss Bryson, Mr.
Craigie.

Friday Morning

9:15—General Session.

Address—A.T.A. Representative.

9:40—Address—The Supervisor.

Mr. A. R. Gibson, M.A., B. Paed.

10:15—Public School Section.

Industrial Art Projects—Miss Murray.

10:45—An Hour in a Rural School. Miss Maxwell
and Pupils of Crossroads School.

10:15—High School Section.

Chairman—J. A. Smith, B.A.

General discussion on High School ques-
tions.

Friday Afternoon

1:30—Public School Section.

"The New Alberta Writing Course."

Mr. H. J. Spicer, B.A.

Registrar, Department of Education.

2:15—"Suggestions on the Teaching of Elemen-
tary Science in the Public School Grades."

Mr. J. A. Fife, M.Sc., Inspector of Schools.

1:30—High School Section.

Chairman—Mr. J. A. Smith, B.A.

3:00—General Session.

BUSINESS MEETING

which received government support. A certificate was given to the school receiving the greatest number of points. Crossroads school received the certificate for three consecutive years. As well, the Agriculture Certificate was won by some of our pupils. The School Certificate was signed by the Honorable Perren Baker.

Our school inspector invited us to come to the Teachers Convention. Our item was listed as "An hour in a rural school". They transported our pupils into the High School Auditorium and the pupils were well behaved.

A number of the pupils in Crossroads and Poplar Ridge wished to take high school so permission was given for them to attend Crossroads. The teacher was

to give them as much assistance as possible. These pupils were George and Edna Christian, Joan Finch, Blanch Vickers and Ladora Losse.

Pupils that I remember are: Teddy and Joe Ashmore, Ernest Speight, Catherine, Eileen, and Muriel Rogers, Bill, Leslie and Bobby Edgar, Reg, Cyril and Earl Galvin, Helen Murray, Greta Heywood, Janet Milne, Roger, Fred and Walter Neilson, Edith and Violet Robson, Norman and Jack Speedie, Barbara and Isabel Hazlett, Ovide, Andry and Henry Landry, and those taking High School.

There is always a bond of friendship between the teacher and her pupils and it is with sorrow that I list the death of my former pupils, Roger and Walter Neilson and Leslie Edgar.



Crossroads class about 1914. Back row L. to R.: Raymond Hart, Jean Neilson, Dora Wright, Florence Hart, Kate Nash, Robert Forbes, Lewis Wright. Middle row: Earl Blakely, Stanley Vickers, Lily Hart, unknown, Doris, Florence and Iris Forbes. Front row: Lily Forbes, unknown, Hilda Blakely and Jean Blakely.



Crossroads class 1937. Back row L. to R.: Glen Currie, Jim Stewart, Muriel Rogers, Miss Joy Russel (teacher), Olive Ward, Margaret Milne, Gordon Philip, Velda Edgar. Front row: Marion Philip, May Philip, Burnadette Philip, Bob Stewart, Mary Stewart, Grant Nash and Alice Currie.



Crossroads class 1928, teacher Mabel Maxwell. Front row: Marjorie Malthouse, Eileen Rogers, Ernie Speight, Isabell Hazlett, Bob Edgar, Janet Milne, Greta Heywood. Second row: Bill Edgar, Walter Neilson, Violet Robson, Cathrine Rogers, Barbara Hazlett, Ted Ashmore, Les Edgar, Joe Ashmore. Third row: Cyril Galavan, Edna Christian, Fred Neilson, George Christian, Joan Finch, Earl Galavan.



Crossroads class 1930, teachers Mabel Maxwell and Helen Neilson. Front row: Bob Edgar, Ernie Speight, Eileen Rogers, Greta Heywood, Muriel Rogers, Mattie Hazlett, Janet Milne, Isabell Hazlett, Marjorie Malthouse, Jack and Norman Speedie. Middle row: Billie Edgar, Walter Neilson, Violet Robson, Barbara Hazlett, Kathrine Rogers, Leslie Edgar, Ted Ashmore, Joe Ashmore. Back row: Joan Finch, Cyril Galavan, Fred Neilson, George and Edna Christian.



Crossroads class 1944, back row L. to R.: Ruth McGregor, Harriette Pomerleau, Maneta Hart, Divona Bollinger, Angele Pomerleau, Gertrude Duhamel, John Pomerleau, Albert Nolan, Margaret Philip. Centre row: Ronald Philip, Edward Graham, Bill Milne, Charlie Richardson, Charlie Nolan, Guy Pomerleau, Freida Ahrens, Alma Roughead (teacher), Shirley Nash, Marion Philip, Marie Duhamel, Doris Pomerleau, Bonnie Peever, Jean Richardson, John Heidebrecht, Bertha Pomerleau, Dorothy Hazlett, Glen Nolan, Ludy Ahrens and Bill Peever.



Crossroads school children with Red Cross quilt.



Crossroads class 1948. Teacher Mrs. Daisy Hankins, back row L. to R.: Bertha Pomerleau, Kenny Bowells, Glen Nolan, Doris Pomerleau, Joan Scott, Charlie Nolan, Dorothy Hazlett, Charlie Richardson, Joyce Cooper. Middle row: Esther Heidebrecht, Bonnie Peever, Elizabeth Prince, unknown, Marlene Sirios, Freida Ahrens, Keith Scott, Deryle Longacre, Bill Peever. Seated: Sally Hazlett, Johnny Heidebrecht, Ernest Goldbeck, unknown, Dale Fraser, Ludy Ahrens, Geoff Hazlett, Merril Richardson, Garry Longacre, Jean Richardson.



Crossroads school 1953, back row L. to R.: Del McKinnon, Ronnie Reed, Ernie Goldbeck, Wally Podridske, unknown, Geoff Hazlett, John Heidebrecht, Darrel Latam, Wayne Baldwin, James Taylor. Centre row L. to R.: David Graham, Shirley Graham, Sally Hazlett, Violet Podridske, Kay Baldwin, Nelson, Barb Edgar, Vernon Baldwin, Dave Baldwin. Front row L. to R.: unknown, Eric Goldbeck, Gaetan Pomerleau, Terry McKinnon, Mary Cowie, Peggy Edgar, unknown, Walter McKinnon, Gerald Pomerleau, Neal Nelson, Billy Edgar, Rod Baldwin.



Crossroads class 1960, Back row L. to R.: Patty Edgar, Noreen Baldwin, Lynn Edgar, Alice Kooiman, Mary Lou Reed, Jeanette Sanderson, Vernon Reed, Sandy Murray, Ronnie Russel. Centre row L. to R.: Annette Sanderson, Jim Edgar, Peggy Edgar, Jane Russel. Front row L. to R.: Stewart Krogman, Peter Kooiman, Evelyn Kooiman, Linda Milne. Teacher Mary Lawrence.



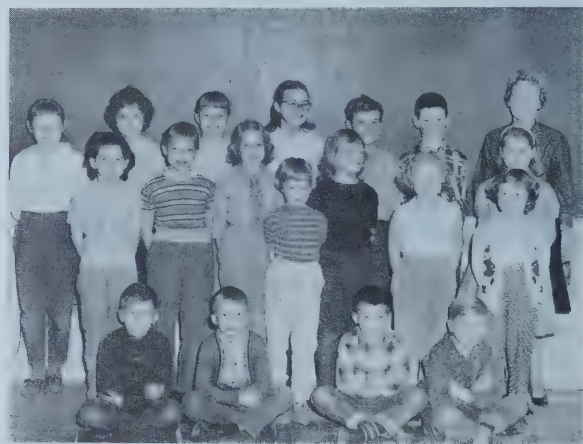
Crossroads class 1946, back row: Bill Milne, Charles Richardson, Delorus Jahraus, Grant Nash, Doug Krogman, Harriette Pomerleau, Guy Pomerleau, Charles Nolan, Deryl Longacre. Centre row: Alma Roughead (teacher), Marie Duhamel, Doris Pomerleau, Joan Scott, Freida Ahrens, Shirley Nash, Dorothy Hazlett, Bill Peever, Glen Nolan, Ludy Ahrens. Front row: Esther Heidebrecht, Bonnie Peever, Ruth Duhamel, Jean Richardson, Bertha Pomerleau, Geoff Hazlett, Garry Longacre, Merril Richardson, Keith Scott.



Crossroads class 1952, back row L. to R.: Charles Richardson, Ernie Goldbeck, Johnny Heidebrecht, Geoffrey Hazlett, Wallie Podridske, Sally Hazlett. Centre row: Neal Nelson, Ronnie Reed, James Taylor, Darel Latam, Nelson, Walter McKinnon, Billy Edgar, Delvin McKinnon. Front row: Vernon Baldwin, Dave Baldwin, Rodney Baldwin, Dave Graham, Eric Goldbeck, Shirley Graham, Irene Mayberry, Barb Edgar.



Crossroads class 1957, Curtis, Bobbie Edgar, David Bladwin, Gail Rhine, Minne Tensen, Harry Tensen, Keith Neilson, unknown. Row 3: Beth Edgar, Elna Baldwin, Polly Edgar, Mary Cowie, Barbara Edgar, Marie Sanderson. Row 2: Vernon Reed, Mary Lou Reed, Lynn Edgar, Jeanette Sanderson, Peggy Edgar. Front row: Noreen Baldwin, Walter Neilson, Alice Kooiman.



Crossroads school 1961, back row L. to R.: Noreen Baldwin, Beth Edgar, Alice Kooiman, Mary Lou Reed, Vernon Reed, Sandy Murray, Mrs. Creelman. Centre row: Linda Edgar, Evelyn Kooiman, Patty Edgar, Pauline Kooiman, Linda Murray, Yvonne Bodwell, Gwen Wilson. Front row: Jim Edgar, Peter Kooiman, Stewart Krogman, Brian Jahraus.

St. Joseph's Convent by Sr. Paul Marie D. W.

As one travels from St. Joseph's convent along Highway 2 and Highway 11, the Edgar farm with (Velda Scott), Bill Edgar and Margaret, Duval, Depalme, Gaukler, Sarah Heenan (Carlyle), and the Johansons mark the way into the town of Sylvan Lake, where the name of Cobb stands out on the store, it reminds us of Margaret and the Rosse girls. The Landry boys, the Pomerleaus and from the Bentley road, the Guillemaud children also found

their way to the Convent. Gwendolyn Gover, Louise and Eva Dominique were among its first boarders. The two Dallaire girls are with us as Sisters and continue the music tradition.

Father Henri Voisin, the parish priest of Red Deer and an educator, saw the need of a school and a boarding school as well, for the children of Red Deer and District. He invited the Daughters of Wisdom to come to teach in this newly formed Red Deer Separate School District and to open a boarding school. The Sisters who arrived on October 8, 1908 were

Sisters Marie Agathe, Rosalie, Jeanne, Cesarine, Marie-Aimée and Alfred. The first four came from France. The Convent was built on a hill over-looking North Red Deer, a distinct village on the north side of the river. Besides the language problem, the Sisters experienced the adaptations and the many hardships of the pioneers, especially the cold winters. Very soon, the original building was found too small and by 1912 a new wing was completed with classrooms, dormitories, a dining room and a kitchen, which gave the children a comfortable home.



Convent, taken about 1909.

The garden provided the fresh vegetables and a few cows, the dairy products. The well was a major problem, a dog and a skunk were drowned in it. The water was soft but always had a peculiar odor of rotten eggs, and it would regularly run dry when the two skating rinks were flooded. Boys and girls had separate playgrounds in what was the Golden West District. The hills were ideal for sleighriding, Turnbull Hill, known as suicide hill, was for the small sleighs during recess time, while Hermary Hill was for bobsleighs. What fun and what speed! However, no one got hurt.

Father Voisin organized the first Separate School Board in Red Deer and the Alberta school program was followed in the school. Father Voisin took a keen interest in the teaching of religion and supervised it himself. French, Art and needlework were offered, too.

As the purposed of the Convent was to meet a need, non-Catholic children were welcome, little boys as well as little girls boarded so as not to break up families. Those children who came from a short distance, travelled on horseback or by buggy like Frank and Anne Marie Depalme, during good weather. Some days particularly stand out in the memory of many, such as when Reverend Mother gave the report cards which testified of academic



Father Voisin with Mr. and Mrs. Emile Wiart.

achievement and behavior, as well, in front of the assembled classes. Among the best teachers was Augusta Heinrich from Sylvan Lake. During the summer holidays, the Sisters gave time to prepare children for their First Communion. The Morrison and MacDonald children remember their stay at the Convent.

The big day of the year was the feast of St. Joseph. The bigger boys found an excuse from school to help make ice cream, from real cream, some of which came from Duval's, for the party to which all were invited. Another high-light of the year was the Christmas Concert. In the beginning it was held in a classroom, then in the recreation room known as the gallery and in later years, in the hall, a converted army hut. No matter the place, it was always filled to capacity by parents who admired the talents of their children. The most appreciated number was the Nativity Scene in which as many as possible, participated.

As years passed by, Red Deer grew, one new school, Sacred Heart, was opened, then five more were built until all the Catholic popultion could be finally accomodated in 1960.

After 70 years, a new Convent was built for the Sisters on the site of the Groto, where many pro-

cessions had taken place. Although the old convent was torn down, the souvenir of school days are engraved in both teachers' and pupils' hearts. From time to time a Golden Jubilee has been the happy occasion of a reunion during which these souvenirs come alive again.

Crossroads Community Club:

On Wednesday March 26, 1947 a meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Irma Ahrens to discuss the possibilities of organizing a women's society.

There were thirteen ladies present;

- 1) Mrs. Amundson
- 2) Mrs. Irma Ahrens
- 3) Mrs. Olive Bowells
- 4) Mrs. Elsie DeBolt
- 5) Mrs. Excell
- 6) Mrs. Alma Krogman
- 7) Mrs. Ena Latam
- 8) Mrs. Mina Linton
- 9) Mrs. Doris Lorentson
- 10) Mrs. Cleo Longacre
- 11) Mrs. Mabel Nash
- 12) Mrs. Roe
- 13) Mrs. Molly Richardson



Crossroads Community Club at Mrs. Pomerleaus.

The ladies voted in favour of a local organization rather than affiliating with an established organization. The newly formed organization was known as the Crossroads Helping Hand Society until March 11, 1949 when the name of the club as changed to Crossroads Community Club.

The ladies were involved in numerous projects over the years, some of them were:

- 1) helping with the school picnics
- 2) helping with the Christmas concerts
- 3) Purchasing dictionaries and other books for the school

- 4) Assisting financially with the erection of the skating rink
- 5) Assisting financially with the construction of a platform in the school.

Today the Club is still active and has two of the original members Mrs. Irma Ahrens and Mrs. Cleo Longacre as members.

Valleyview Subdivision (Linn Valley)

In 1958, the S.W. 6-39-27-W4 was purchased from Mrs. Inman Lorentson and turned into one of the first subdivisions in the area.

The farm buildings and 40 acres along the south edge of the quarter were purchased by Garry Lawrence. In later years this portion of the quarter was divided into two 20 acre parcels. These are now owned by Tom Symes and Stephen Runge.

Construction of the inner road of the Subdivision was completed in the early summer of 1959. A few mobile homes were moved on to some of the lots as temporary residences while homes were being built.

By the fall of 1959, power had been installed and telephones were hooked up in the spring of 1960. Water wells were drilled and sewage systems installed by each owner. In a few years what had been a stubble field was transformed into a place of beauty. Today the people of Valleyview can be proud of their lawns, trees, gardens and beautiful homes. One acre lots are large and keeping lawns and gardens in this condition requires long hours of hard work.

A few of the early residents are still residents and have seen the trials and tribulations that are present in any pioneering adventure. Some of the first residents were the Bodwells, the Wilsons, the McCauleys, the Thompsons, the Storks, the Hansens, the Miners and the Lambs. Today there are only a few of the lots that do not have homes on them. If any of the very first residents have been missed, we apologize.

With the increase in population the gravel road became a problem and cold mix was laid. Mail was delivered to Site 1 and 5 on Highway 11, until vandals insisted on doing damage to the large boxes. They were then moved into the subdivision. School buses began making regular trips to transport the children of the area to Red Deer to school.

Only a few of the original pioneers of Valleyview still live in the subdivision, they are: the Wilsons, McCauleys, Thompsons and Miners. Many names and faces have come and gone over the years. Although they were only here a few years they are still part of the history of the area. Very few of the people who now reside in the area chose to put their histories in this book, so a list of the owners as of July, 1980, was obtained from the County Offices. This will

probably have changed by the time this history has been published. The owners are as follows:

Anderson, T., Arnold, S., Bailey, J., Barlow, T., Bioletti, S. A., Blair, P., Buffum, R., Burley, A., Burkinshaw H., Cavanaugh, P., Cole, D., Cosens, R., Cota, D., Dade, W., Dand, L., Delaney, M. Dingle, A., Dixon, M., Ellberg, L., Evans, G., Fromhold, W., Garret, D., Graff, J., Graham, B., Gregory, K., Hallet, E., Harding, A., Hansen, P., Harrison, R., Hrynew, W., Hugo, J., Hunlye, K., Humbke, H., Johnston, N., Jost, P., King, J., Kohtala, A., Lund, P., Luben Holdings, MacDonald, N., Mannes, L., Marshall, J., Mattheis, J., McCauley, E., McConell, F., Miner, C., Moad, T., Murray, G. D., Nagy, B., Norem, S., Olset, A., Peltz, K., Pelz, J., Paquette, B., Read, J., Richardson, C., Reid, H., Rombough, H., Rosene, A., Rossen H., Runge, S., Shantz, D., Snyder, F., Smith, J., Spidel, H., Spittka, H., Sowiak, T., Ste-man, W., Stevenson, L., Stukappe, J., Symes, T., Taylor, R., Thomas, W., Thompson, H., Watson, S., Wallin and Ross, Wilson, A., Wilson, C., Wissinger, C.

In 1980, the name of the Subdivision was changed to Linn Valley. This name was chosen when it was found that the homesteader of the quarter section had been a Mr. Linn. It may be of interest to note that Mr. Linn homesteaded the land in 1893.

Central Park Subdivision

Central Park was created on the northeast quarter of section 4-39-27-W4 in the early 1950's. A list of the owners as of July 1980 was obtained from the County of Red Deer, they were as follows; Howard Ans, Edward Arnold, Charles Baile, Joel Campbell, Merle Cornell, Charles Dunning, Edward Hammond, Henry Hermary, George Johnson, Murray Kennedy, Robert Kullman, Derald Lundberg, Anthony Marcinek, Douglas Milne, Thomas Plunkett, Don Porter, Ronald Radke, Wallace Seifried, Lloyd Steinhouse, Edward Swanson, Dale Woods.

History of the Area by Myrtle Miller

When Leon and I purchased the N.W. 15-39-27-W4, in March, 1942, we did not realize the historical interests we had acquired thereon.

We found four cellars of homes, in four different locations, of early settlers. A very old lime kiln was also found in the river bank. It was six feet across and ten feet deep and had an opening at the bottom to light a wood fire for burning the limestone which filled the large flue.

We found a few small arrow heads, of the type

used by the Shoshoni Indians, who had been in the vicinity about 1725. A three-quarter inch large glass bead was also found. It was used on the ankles by the Shoshoni in their cermonial dances. This was told to me by the curator of the Luxton Museum in Banff.

We also found a heavy, stone hammer head which was made for a "Buffalo Skull Cracker". All these things turned up in our garden soil, we were told they were not made here, but carried here by the Indians as tools used in their hunting activities.

In compiling history of this district, I find much has been lost and some information will no doubt be inaccurate.

Through research, I obtained information on dates and events which are considered correct.

The first fully documented report is that of David Thompson, he came through in 1800. Mapping the area for the Northwest Fur Company, which was established in 1799 at Rocky Mountain House. His route became the trail of the nineteenth century.

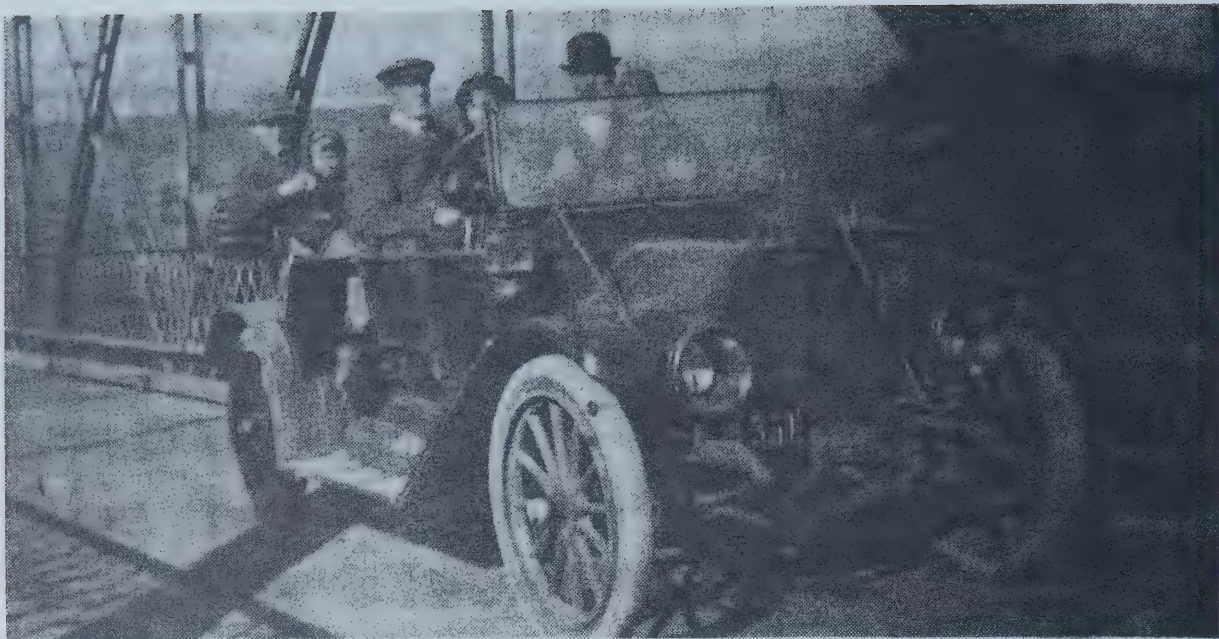
Records of 1860 show that a trading post had been established at Calgary. Wandering prospectors came from Fort Benton, Montanna and Fort Garry to search for gold along the Saskatchewan River at Edmonton.

In 1869, Father Lacombe with three Indians and a cart went through here to Fort Benton, Montana, to try to obtain goods for St. Albert from the Americans.

The Hudson Bay Company in 1870, had a trading post situated at Boss Hill, on the east side of Buffalo Lake. This was definitely the crossing of the trails of the south route and the trail to Battleford, Sask.

Recorded history tells us that the first homesteaders came to Red Deer in 1882. The railroad reached Calgary in August, 1883, and soon after a four horse stage coach service was established between Calgary and Edmonton. These travellers were many days on the trail. Stopping places were established at "Lone Pine" nears Olds, "Spruces" near Innisfail, "The Crossing" at the Red Deer River, "Blindman Crossing" was on our land on Section 15. The next stopping place was "Ed Barnetts" on the east side of Barnett Lake near Lacombe. There was the "Battle River Crossing" near Ponoka and the "Bear Hills" near Wetaskiwin. I know what a "haven of rest" these stopping places were for the trail weary travellers, as my father's homestead was "Ericksons Stopping Place" for many years before 1927.

The old Red River Cart trail became the Calgary and Edmonton Trail. It was graded and gravelled and later became one of the first sections of road to be paved in Alberta. The Blindman bridge was built on our section land. It was put there in 1902. It is one



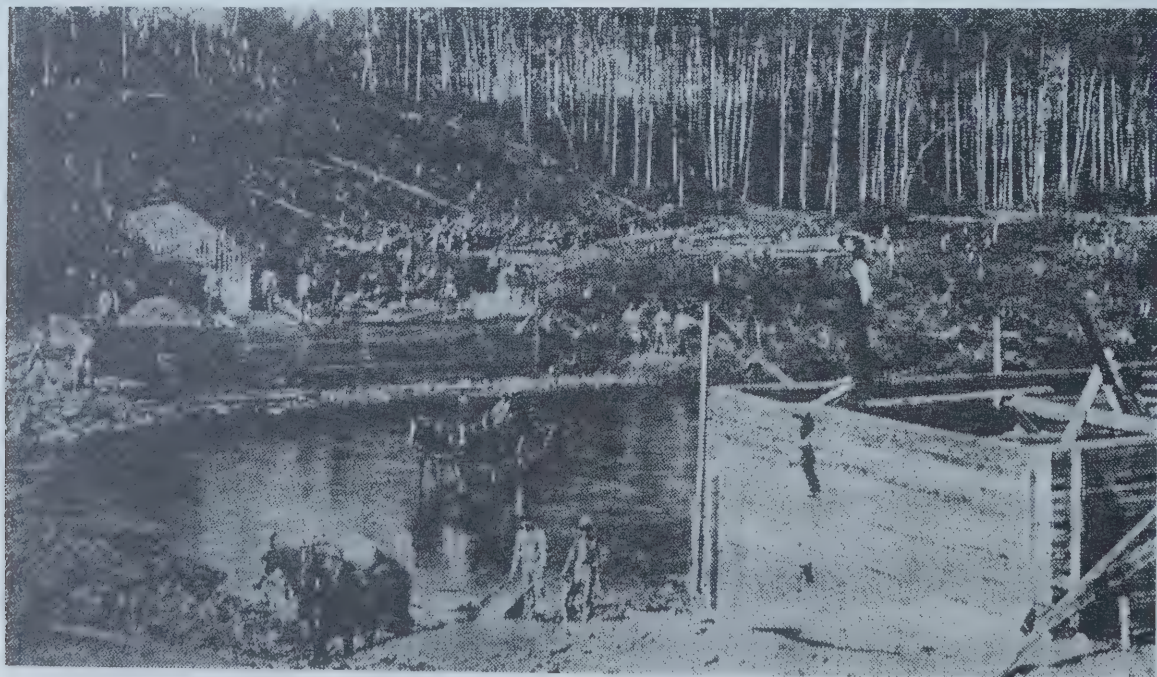
Blindman River Bridge, Burris family.

span of a two span bridge that was built across the Red Deer in 1901, and was swept away by the ice in the spring of 1902.

The Canadian Pacific Railway was built across Section 15 in this area in 1891 and the Canadian National Railway was built in 1912-1913, from Mirror to the Brazeau Coal Mines at Nordegg. The

C.N.R. track crossed over the C.P.R. track on the S.E. of 15-39-27.

When we moved to the Blindman Valley in 1942, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Bradbury lived on the southwest of Section 15, adjoining our place. We were fortunate to have them as our neighbors. The Bradburys were old timers of the area. They had been residents since



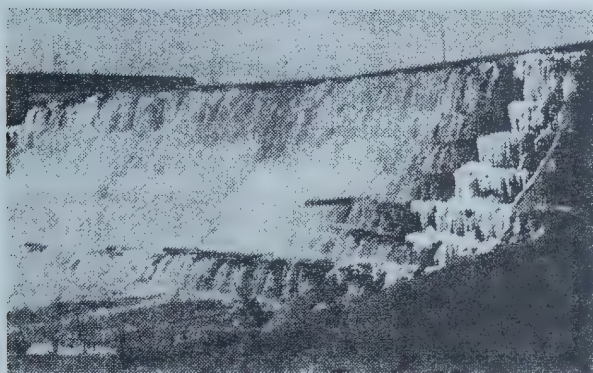
Blindman River Dam in construction stage.

1904. Mr. Bradbury was employed by the Blindman Electric Power Company, as an engineer. This dam was built to supply the town of Lacombe with power. As no concrete was used in its construction, leakage gave trouble. The dam was finished in 1906.

The Blindman River is a comparatively short river, about 70 miles in length, but its purpose was long and great. It is the essential drainage source for a large area between Pigeon Lake and the North Saskatchewan River to the west. That area contains many muskegs and creeks and has a history of heavy annual rainfall. The Blindman could be a placid shallow little stream, sometimes only a trickle, or at times a raging torrent in flood stage. Often sweeping the banks clear of debris.

The Blindman has an age old history, regrettably much of it lost to passing time. Campfires have glowed in the Valley for perhaps 200 years. First by the hunting and warring Indian tribes, and later by white men, trappers, traders and explorers. Squatters came next and after the surveying was done the homesteaders came in the 1880's and land titles were issued to the industrious ones. All the while the little river went serenely on its way, on high or low as the seasonal weather changed.

The costly attempt to exploit the little river failed in 1915, when the little river rebelled. With her power she tore out the dam and went dashing over the rocks and debris into the Red Deer River once more.



Blindman River Dam, 1904-1915.

Mr. and Mrs. Bradbury had built their home on land near the damsite, after his work was finished there he sold that land to his son, George, but moved the house to the S.W. of 15, where it stands today by the Old Calgary-Edmonton Trail. Mr. Bradbury often told us tales of the early days. He farmed for 25 years before his retirement. He and his sons moved to Vancouver Island.

About 1918, Harvey Bawtinheimer moved a saw mill onto our land. There were many huge spruce

stumps left after he logged the timber along the valley, and the sawdust piles remained for years.

In 1955, the Imperial Oil Company drilled Burbank No. 1 Oil Well, then No. 2, No. 3 and No. 4 in 1956 and 1957. These wells were all drilled on our land. They were good wells for a short time, but are capped off now.

Family Histories

Alford, Bertram and Elsie (Red Deer Archives)

The Alfords homesteaded in the Pine Lake area. It was while they were there that five of their six children, Vera, Gladys, Charles, Geoffrey and Sybil, were born. Winnifred was born after they moved to Red Deer.

In 1913, Mrs. Alford passed away and shortly after their oldest daughter, Vera, also died.

Mr. Alford served overseas in the First World War and in 1916, married Ethelwynne Dobbie of Tavistock, Devon.

Upon his return from overseas, he farmed for a few years in the Crossroads area. Mr. Alford loved the mountains and the pack trails. He became a forest ranger in 1921 and worked in the area beyond Nordegg.

His second wife, Ethelwynne, passed away in 1926, after a lengthy illness. Mr. Alford died in 1958 at the ripe old age of 87 years.

Of the Alford family of four daughters and two sons, Vera, the first white baby born in the Pine Lake area, in 1894, passed away in 1914.

Gladys, who was born at Pine Lake, married C. F. (Sykes) Lawrence. They had three sons, John, Daniel and Richard.

Charles was born at Pine Lake in 1897. He served in the First World War and lost his life in the battle of Simonne, in September, 1916.

Geoffrey was born at Pine Lake in 1899. He enlisted in the First World War at the age of 16 years and served overseas. In 1925, he married Ruby Henderson. They lived at Olds for a number of years. He enlisted in the Second World War. He was wounded in Italy in 1944, which resulted in the loss of his sight. Geoffrey and Ruby had one son Charles Milton. Geoffrey passed away on November 4, 1964. He is buried in the Field of Honor at Banff, where he was living at the time of his passing.

Sybil was also born at Pine Lake. She married William J. Hazlett in 1926. (See W. J. Hazlett history).

Winnifred, the youngest, was born in Red Deer, where she still resides.

Ahrens, Hans L. and Irma by Ludy Ahrens and Frieda-Marie Anderson

Our father, Hans Ludwig Ahrens, was born December 22, 1901 in Flintbek Forde, Germany. The only child of a farm family, Hans was educated at an Agricultural College in Germany.

Hans immigrated to Canada in the year 1928, stopping in the Lethbridge area, where he worked on a large grain farm for one year. He moved to the Red Deer area in 1929 and worked on the Adolph Schock farm in the Shady Nook district for several months. In the fall of 1929, Hans moved to the Springvale district, to the half section now known as the Tozer farm, located one mile north of the Springvale School, SW 8-38-26.

Our mother was born Irma Mae Dreyer at Perdue, Saskatchewan on April 23, 1907. The sixth born of eight children, her parents had emigrated from Council Bluffs, Iowa in the fall of 1902 with their four older children. After graduation from High School, Mother entered training at the Misericordia Hospital in Edmonton, graduating as a registered nurse in 1929. She moved to Red Deer in 1930, and took employment in the Red Deer Municipal Hospital. As a guest for Sunday dinner at the Schock farm, she met our father.

Hans and Irma were married in the summer of 1931, taking up residence on the farm in Springvale. Frieda-Marie, their first child arrived in 1932 and hard times were the rule of thumb.

The spring of 1935, when Ludy arrived, was very wet. To this day the amount of moisture in June is always compared with the spring of '35 and to Ludy's knowledge, whether it be true or not we have never had a wetter year.



The Ahrens family: L. to R. Irma, Ludy, Irma, Alf, Frieda, Marie and Hans.

The ensuing years, with crop failure and worse prices, took their toll on nearly everyone and our family was no exception. Grain farming was an exercise in futility, and a dairy herd our father started in the early 30's proved our salvation and turned into a lifelong career for our entire family.

Of course, with milk cows, the next step was registered Holsteins which then naturally led to the show ring at the Red Deer Fair. Frieda-Marie was three years old when she showed her first calf in the show-ring and asked. "Is this right, Daddy?"

The fall and winter of '38 and '39 proved to be too much and in the spring of 1939 our parents sold out, and like so many farm families of the time an auction sale ended our stay in the Springvale district.

Somehow, our father, being a versatile individual and a man of industrious nature, was able to retain a few animals of good breeding which would, many years later, form the nucleus of one of the finest dairy herds in Western Canada. At the same time Father started a trucking business founded on the priority that the milk had to be transported to the Condensery in Red Deer. On occasion, Mother had to take her turn driving the truck along the route, dropping off empty cans from the day before and picking up full ones.

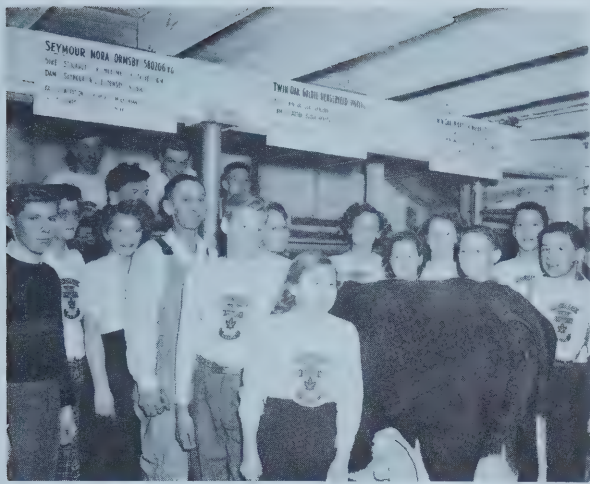
About this time came the outbreak of World War II and the necessity of building the highway to Alaska. Father took the truck off the milk run and helped transport goods up the Alaska Highway.

In 1942, Father bought land in the Crossroads district, which was known as the Glassen place. This land was situated on the Calgary-Edmonton Trail and is now part of the Glendale Estates sub-division. From this time on our Father, with the help of a growing family, dedicated his life to the dairy industry and the development of our herd of Purebred Holstein Friesian cattle.

The summer of 1942 ushered in another member of our family, as our sister Irma was born on July 18. She eventually proved to be the child that inherited father's love of cattle and is still involved with the industry today.

In the fall of 1942, Frieda in grade 4 and Ludy in grade 2, began their education in the Crossroads School with Miss Anderson as the teacher. Other teachers we had were Mrs. Roughead, Mrs. Hankins and Mrs. Jevne. Frieda completed grade 8 at Crossroads and in the fall of '47 attended Central Junior High in Red Deer to complete grade 9. Ludy followed to the same school in the fall of '49 and both continued on to the new Red Deer Composite High School, Frieda graduating in 1951 and Ludy in 1953.

Toward the close of World War II in 1945, Father became a firm believer in the 4-H movement. Due to



4-H Dairy Club, with Leader Hans Ahrens.

the efforts of local dairy farmers such as the Scott Brothers and the Richards Brothers and himself, the Red Deer 4-H Dairy Club was formed. Father was elected club leader and retained this position until the Alberta Department of Agriculture awarded him a 25 year Club Leader Certificate. Many people who live in the Edwell, Horn Hill, Willowdale and Springvale districts, and who are middle-aged today will recall the many bus trips that Hans organized to Agricultural field days and University of Alberta open houses.

Our young brother, Alfred was born on September 21, 1947, and now our family was complete. As Frieda and Ludy grew older they were able to assume more responsibility with regard to the farm and home and this permitted our mother to become involved with nursing again. In the meantime, from the end of the war until the middle fifties, our dairy herd continued to grow.

In 1948, our sister Irma began Grade 1 at the Crossroads School under the guidance of Mrs. Frizzell. Like Ludy and Frieda she got to school using a bicycle as transportation. Upon completion of Grade 1, Irma got the rest of her education in Red Deer and graduated from the Composite in 1960. Irma remembers attending Crossroads Community picnics at Sylvan Lake. The highlight of these picnics was getting there in Mr. Flack's jeep.

1951 was a banner year for Twin Oak Farms and the Ahrens Family, in that a cow owned by us set a world's record for milk production over a two year period. For several days our farm was overrun by dignitaries. From that day on, our home played host to Government officials and farmers from practically every country in the western hemisphere. People from as far away as Argentina and Japan have been guests at our farm, and Mother always had the coffee pot ready.

Our brother Alf, started school in 1953 at River Glen. Grades 2 and 3 saw him at Crossroads and he remembers Mrs. Crossley as his teacher. Alf got to Crossroads School via a new fangled mode of transportation — a 1953 Panel Truck used as a bus. This was owned and driven by Mr. Orilie Young who commuted from Delburne. Alf was also the only one of us that got to use the brand new school building. After leaving Crossroads at the end of grade 3, Alf continued his education in Red Deer finishing up at the Lindsay Thurber Composite High School. Alf recalls Christmas concerts at Crossroads with Mr. Chesterman doing the customary honors of the jolly, old, bearded gentleman.

Frieda-Marie left the farm in 1951 to pursue a teaching career and returned to the Pine Lake District, teaching at Glenellen and Howell's Lake before marrying a local young man and settling into farm life at Pine Lake. She has a daughter, Marie Wright and a son, David Lawrence, both residing in Red Deer, as she does.

Ludy left the farm in 1955, to work in Alaska for a period of time, returning in 1957 to Edmonton, where he joined a large international company, spending several years in the United States, at various locations and returning to Calgary in 1969. He has a daughter Brenda Marchuk residing with her family in Sulvan Lake. Ludy has two grandsons, Jon Paul and Jay. Ludy returned to Red Deer and currently lives in Oriole Park.

Irma also pursued a teaching career and taught in Calgary and later Delburne, where she met and married Bob Lawrence. They farm at Pine Lake and have three children, Peter, Cathy and Margo, who are all actively involved in the 4-H movement. We have to admit at this point that Irma switched from the dairy to the beef industry upon taking up residence at Pine Lake.

After finishing school Alf went to the Arctic to work in the extended oil patch, returning in 1975 when he entered the farm machinery business. In 1979, he married Lois Farrington of Alhambra and they have built themselves a new home in Poplar Ridge Estates.

In August of 1956, the barn burned down and was replaced immediately by a new one. But in the meantime the cows had to be milked each day and this was done at the Heidebrecht barn.

Father passed away in July of 1968 and the milk cows were sold to the Nichols family of Willowdale in the same year. The younger of the purebred stock was dispersed within Central Alberta. In 1975, Ludy created a "Best Dressed and Trained Calf" award and trophy in memory of our father's efforts with young people in the 4-H movement. Frieda-Marie,

Ludy and Irma have, during the passing years, taken their part in judging calves and showmanship upon numerous occasions in 4-H competitions.

In 1976, Mother sold the home place which today is an urban housing development called Glendale Estates. She purchased a home in Oriole Park the same year and has been fortunate in that she has enjoyed the warmer climates of Arizona or Hawaii in the winter months. She is active in her garden in the summer and takes a great interest in her children and grandchildren.

Ans, Howard and Lorraine

Howard and Lorraine Ans moved to Central Park from Lacombe, in January of 1959.

A daughter, Lora, was born to them on December 8, 1960. Lora received her education at River Glen, Lindsay Thurber and the Red Deer College. Presently, she is working as a Pharmacy Technician at Calgary.



The Ans family: L. to R. Howard, Lora and Lorraine.

Howard has worked for Jubilee Beverages since 1958. Lorraine has worked part-time for Union Tractor, since 1967.

The Ans' enjoy gardening and share their large garden area with several Red Deer families.

Atkins, Daniel Francis and Sarah by Helen Farewell

Daniel Francis Atkins was born in Saulte St. Marie, Ontario, in 1860. He homesteaded the N.W. 6-39-27-W4 on November 6th, 1896. He and his wife, the former Sarah (Kitty) Hart, had three children upon their arrival here. They were Pearl, William and Daniel Franklin. Two more children were born on the homestead, Jenny and a baby boy who died shortly after birth and was buried on this farm.

The fire which almost razed their dwelling was the cause of Mrs. Atkin's death. She and the children, Pearl and Frank put the fire out by carrying buckets of water to the upstairs area. She developed pneumonia and died in 1903.

The children were divided up among relatives and Dan sold the farm to Arch and Fenton Billingham and left this area.

Frank lived his young life with Mr. and Mrs. Ed. Martin at Nelson, B.C. and then on the Finch farm, N.W. 2-38-27-W4. Frank, in his early manhood years, spent the winter months visiting with local aunts, uncles and cousins. During his stay with his cousin, the late Mrs. Fred Neilson, he met and married the Crossroads School teacher, Miss Sarah Blackburn Custance who was born in Rawden, Nova Scotia, in 1895.

During their stay in Detroit, Michigan and later in Grouard, Alberta, Frank farmed and was an R.C.M.P. member in several Peace River areas. Sarah went back to teaching.

Frank and Sarah had three children, Helen and Louise Elliott of Calgary, Jeannie Frances Armstrong of Coquitlam, B.C., and their only son, Carl Mosher, who they lost in 1955. Sarah passed away in 1971. Frank celebrated his 85th birthday on May 17th and he is living in a senior citizen's home in High Prairie, Alberta.

Aubuchon, Dave and Florence by Florence Aubuchon

Dave and I were married February 14, 1936, at Fairview, Alberta, the following February we came to Red Deer. We lived with my parents, Violet and Albert Duhamel, until our eldest son, Dale was born, July 8, 1937. We then moved to Champion, Alberta, where Dave could find more work, especially farm work. This was the Depression and jobs were very scarce. While we lived at Champion, our daughter, Joan, was born on December 16, 1938. Gary, our youngest arrived November 27, 1940.

In the spring of 1943 we moved back to Red Deer, where we settled. We purchased an acre of land from

Bill Saunders, located at the present site of the Golden West Road or 67th Street and the old Edmonton-Calgary highway. This was the only highway north out of Red Deer. The road was so busy and Gary being small, I kept him tethered to the house with a peice of clothes-line rope fastened to the straps of his overalls. One day it got very quiet and when I went out to check, Gary had slipped off his overalls and had gone over to play with his Uncle Donnie across the road, (bottomless).

In 1943 we built the first half of our house, which used gas lamps and wood and coal for fuel. We had a good well and a large garden with raspberries, currants, and gooseberries. Dave went to work for the Department of Highways during the spring of 1943 and worked the Highway #11 area.



Florence and Dave Aubuchon, Dale, Joan and Gary, 1944.

We finished our house during 1945, adding electricity and some of the electrical appliances such as a washing machine. Things were looking up for us and many others as the economy improved.

Spring of 1947, we moved downtown to Victoria Avenue. Bus service was not installed yet and the children had long cold walks downtown to school. Summer 1948 found us moving to Vancouver Island for two years. In 1950 we moved back to Red Deer where we rented the house for two years that we had built and then we moved downtown again.

Dale decided to become a hairdresser and still has a shop at Rocky Mountain House. He married Beryle

Miller in 1957 and they have two sons Randy and James and a daughter, Cheryl.

Joan graduated from Calgary General School of Nursing in 1960 and married Norman Engman in 1961. They have two sons, Wesley and Carl.

Our youngest son Gary married Sheila Rowden in 1973, they have one daughter, Renie. So with six grandchildren around we have very few dull moments.



Aubuchon family 1979. L. to R.: Norm, Wesley, Carl and Joan Engman; Gary, Sheila and Renee Aubuchon; Dave and Florence Aubuchon; Dale and Beryle Aubuchon; seated Florida and Clarence Gay (aunt and uncle) visiting from Michigan.

Dave and I live at 3685-44 Avenue in Red Deer and enjoy our retirement. Dave plays pool and cards at the Golden Circle and always says he gets away each day before I can think up jobs for him to do. I am busier than ever doing the things I like to do with painting and committee work. I remember all the sewing I did for others in days gone by, especially wedding gowns and dance costumes. Dave worked as a truck driver for the City of Red Deer the last twenty-four years before his retirement.

After moving all over we still say, and always will, that this is a great part of this country.

Baldwin, Cecil and Marjorie **by Cecil Baldwin**

I was born in northern Manitoba, coming to Saskatchewan in 1929 and then to Alberta in March of 1930. I worked in different parts of Alberta. Working for a time for Albert Lanterman of the Balmoral district, east of Red Deer.

In 1936, I worked for Sam and Bill Blakley of the Crossroads district. They farmed where Mrs. Les Edgar lives today. In 1937, I went to Cranbrook,

B.C., where I met and married Marjorie White of Crawford Bay, B.C. Marjorie and I were married in 1938.

We moved back to Red Deer in July of 1945, living south of town for two years. I worked for Hewson and Sons draying business for two years and we finally bought the acreage south of the Crossroads School in July 1947.

Our four oldest children were born at Cranbrook, B.C. Kathleen, born September 1939, is married to Lloyd Bystrom. They live on a dairy farm south of Sylvan Lake. Kathleen and Lloyd have four children.

Wayne, born September 1941, is married to Betty Cooper. They live in Edmonton where Wayne works for a construction company. They have four children too.

I had my own small trucking business for about twenty-five years. I am now semi-retired and living in Red Deer.



Cecil Baldwin with truck.

The Blakely History by Doreen Blakely

The Blakely family first arrived in the Crossroads district in 1913, from Vancouver. The family consisted of Mr. Sam Blakely, his wife, Mrs. Gin Blakely, their children, Earl, Hilda and Jean, and Mr. Blakely's brother, Bill.

The Blakelys were born and raised in the Peter-



The Cecil Baldwin family.

Rod was born in 1943 and married Lois Wagner, they have four children. Lois and two of the children live at Red Water, Alberta. Rod was killed in a truck-train accident in December of 1979. He was working for the same construction company that Wayne works for.

Vernon, born in 1944, was killed in a car accident in Edmonton in 1968.

David, who was born in Red Deer in 1945, married Jenny Koster, they have three children. Dave works for K & K Transport of Red Deer.

Elna was born in 1948, she married Melvin Ashcroft. Melvin is an elevator agent at Drumheller. They have two children.

Noreen was born in 1950, she has two children and works for a real estate office in Red Deer.

After cooking at the Alberta School Hospital for fifteen years, Marjorie has retired.



Sam Blakely's threshing outfit.

borough area in Ontario. Bill Blakely, leaving in 1890 and going to the west coast, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Blakely, leaving in 1911 and going to Vancouver.

Mr. and Mrs. Blakely and Bill bought a farm in 1913 in the Crossroads district, where they were successful farmers, retiring in 1944 and moving to Red Deer. Bill Blakely moved back to the west coast, New Westminster in 1946.

The Blakely children; Earl married Hazel Bell from Lacombe, a teacher at the Crossroads school. They raised five children and are now retired and living in Stettler.

Hilda Blakely married Ted Martin, they moved to Trail, B.C. They raised three children and are now retired and living in Victoria.

Jean Blakely married Aubin Pye, a farmer from the Penhold district, and raised three children. Jean now lives west of Edmonton at Hinton.



One of the Blakely threshing crews including Herb Stewart, Jack Moore, Lewis Wright, Gordon Hall and harvest excursion workers.

Charlie and Bird Blakely returned from serving in the armed forces of the First World War and settled in the Shady Nook district in 1919.

Bird Blakely married Ena Nash of the Crossroads area.

Charlie Blakely married Kathleen Marshall of London, England. Mrs. Blakely was a World War I war bride. They were married in March, 1921 and are celebrating their diamond wedding anniversary this year, 1981.

They farmed in the Shady Nook district, moving to Edmonton in 1944, where Mr. Blakely worked at the carpentry trade until his retirement at age 80.

Their three children; Bob Blakely became a master journeyman in plumbing and lives in Edmonton and has two children.

Doreen Blakely has worked for Trans-Canada Air Lines now known as Air Canada, for 35 years and resides in Edmonton.

Cecil Blakely followed in his brother's footsteps and became a master journeyman in plumbing. He lives on an acreage outside Edmonton and has five children.

The only living Blakely brother is Charlie. He is still enjoying good health at the age of 93. The brothers all lived beyond the age of 80.

Billinghurst, Arch

by Helen Farewell

Arch Billinghurst came from England prior to the First World War. He was a harness maker in Red Deer. He joined the forces and served overseas in the first war. In the early 1900's, he and his brother, Fenton, bought the Dan Atkins farm (later the Neilson farm).

Arch married Jennie Curuthers, a teacher from Delaware, Ontario in 1920. They were married in Red Deer.

They farmed in the Westling district near Clive then went to Ponoka in 1954. Arch passed away there, his wife Jennie lived until her 96th birthday.

Bollinger, Henry and Barbara

by Reuben Bollinger

Henry Bollinger, with his wife, Barbara, and three children, immigrated from the U.S. to home-
stead at Piapot, Sask., eventually moving to Watrous, Sask. in 1937. From there in October of 1943, they moved to the Alfred Heywood farm in the Crossroads district, on the S.E. 4-39-27-W4.



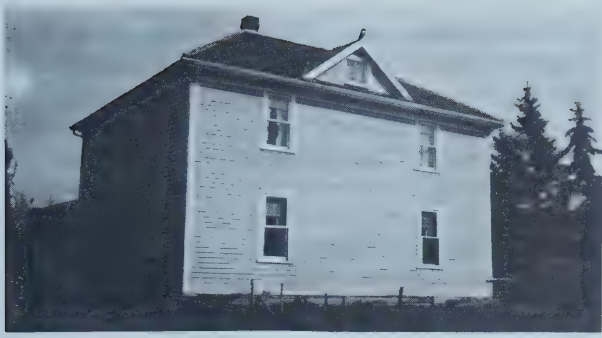
Mr. and Mrs. Henry Bollinger, 1945.

The History of Mrs E. Blakely nee Ena Nash.

I was born in 1894 at Edge Ware. England on the 6th of November. My father and Mother whose name was Arthur & Marie Nash decided they would come to Canada. So we arrived in Canada the following Spring I was the youngest soul on board a ship. I had two brothers Art and Percy and three sisters Habel Alice and Kate. We all attended the Cross Roads school in 1921 I married Bird Blakely of Shady Hook. where I still live. I had two boys Jack and Manly. Jack built a home across the Road from us where he still lives. Manly passed away 11 years ago he had three girls. They are all living at Sylvan Lake. My father died in 1924 and my mother passed away in 1931. My brother Percy took over the farm.

He married Mabel Maxwell a school teacher and she taught the Cross Roads school for a while. The people that had lived ~~in~~ on the old home stead before we came was Mr & Mrs Gilmore. They went back to England again. Here are some of the kids I went to school with. The Harb's, The Hazleth's, The Philipps and Lasses, and Larmons.

Mrs. E. Blakely



The Henry Bollinger house.

With them came three daughters, Florence, Elsie and Devona, also a son, Conrad, with his wife and little boy. Two of Henry's sons, Reuben and Irven followed in 1945, after being discharged from the Armed Forces. Henry and Barbara had eleven children, six boys and five girls.

After retiring and selling the farm to Joe Georgie, Henry and his wife moved to Red Deer, where he passed away in 1964. His wife died five years later in 1969.

Boots, Case and Ena by Ena Boots

Case and I immigrated from Holland in July of 1953. We had been planning on coming to Canada but intended to make it a year later. The severe flooding of Holland that year changed our minds and we left early.

With two small children, Jackie and Diana we moved to the Clay place in 1956. While we were living there three more children arrived, Joanne in 1957, Marjorie in 1960 and Peter in 1961. We continued to live in the Clay house until 1963. Case worked for Bettenson Moving and Storage at this time.



The Case Boots residence, formerly known as the Clay place.

In 1963, we moved to Bentley and started our own trucking business. Two more children blessed our happy home with the arrival of Wendy in 1965 and Christie in 1967.

Our eldest daughter, Jackie married Duane Van der Heide. They live on a farm on the east side of Gull Lake. They have three girls and a boy in their family.

Diana is teaching in Nigeria. She has one year left of a three year Government contract. Joanne is nursing at the University Hospital in Edmonton. Marjorie is doing volunteer church work and is studying to be a Social Worker.

Our son Peter is a truck driver for a Bedding company in Calgary. He does long distance hauling. Wendy and Christie live at home and attend school in Lacombe and Bentley.

Case is kept busy with the trucking business and my hobby is driving a school bus.

Bradbury, Ernest and Mary by Rose (Castle) Bradbury

Ernest Bradbury and Mary Lee were married in England in 1902, where Ernest worked in the potteries. They came to the area in 1906, by train. They moved into a frame house on the S.E. ¼ 14-39-27-



The Bradbury home at the Blindman River Power Co. damsite.

W4. A few years later they bought the S.E. ½ 15-39-28-W4.

Ernest and Mary had two sons, George and Fred, who helped their mother look after the farm while their Dad ran the Powerhouse on the Blindman River. This dam was built on the Blindman close to the mouth where it enters the Red Deer River. For a number of years, it supplied power to Blackfalds and Lacombe. Ernest later joined Calgary Power and became a meter reader.

Mrs. Mary Bradbury passed away in February, 1946. Ernest died in August of 1962.

George married Rose Castle on February 3, 1940. They farmed the S.E. ½ 13-39-27-W4. George and Rose had one daughter, Karen, who is married and living in Prince Rupert with her husband and three children. George passed away on October 3, 1973. Rose resides in Courtney, B.C.

Fred Bradbury married Lillian Moore in 1943, they had no children. Fred passed away December 9, 1973. Lillian lives in Victoria, B.C.

Claywell, Howard and Hetta submitted by Florence Aubuchon

Hetta and Howard Claywell were my mother-in-law and step father-in-law. They were both born in Missouri, but came to Canada years apart and were



Hetta and Howard Claywell, 1949.

married at Champion, Alberta. They moved to Red Deer from High Prairie, Alberta in the spring of 1940 and bought the Albert Duhamel acreage. They were known as Aunt and Uncle to most people and Grandma and Grandpa Claywell to the younger ones.

The acreage they bought became a truck garden, furnishing seasonal vegetables and root vegetables for winter storage to many city residents.

When age and poor health didn't permit them to work so hard, they moved to their little home on 45th Street, in 1952. Howard passed away January 1955 at the age of 79 years. Hetta lived in her home, growing a garden and caring for her numerous houseplants for another ten years. At the age of 88, ill health forced her to give up living alone. She came to live with Dave and I after a brief stay in hospital. She passed away close to her 93rd birthday.

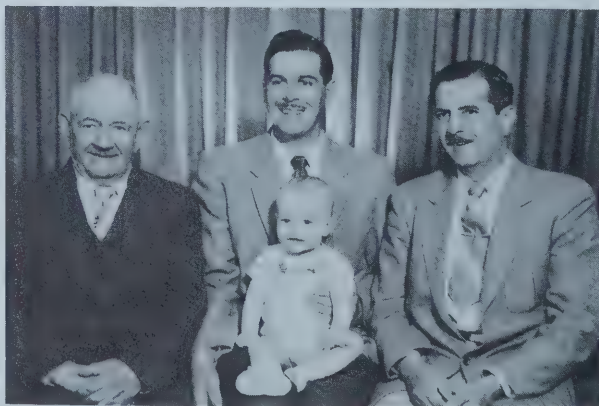
Mrs. Claywell left two sons, Dave and Bland Aubuchon, and one daughter, Glenda Castator in Red Deer, also two daughters, Alva Mackley and Mary Ellis in Missouri.

There must be dozens of people who have a sample of Hetta Claywell's crocheting, which was her pastime the last years of her life. The Claywells will be remembered by family and friends for their hospitality, a full house for weekend dinners was a general thing.

Hetta's son Bland Aubuchon made his home with them until his marriage to Mary Soley in 1951.

Comis, John and Anna by the Comis Family

Giovanni (John) Comis was born at Belluno, Italy. He was an Italian mosaic and terrazzo artisan and concrete engineer. John arrived in Red Deer on November 4, 1912, with his brother-in-law, Fred Nachtmann, who had a homestead at Condor (Pit-cox), Alberta.

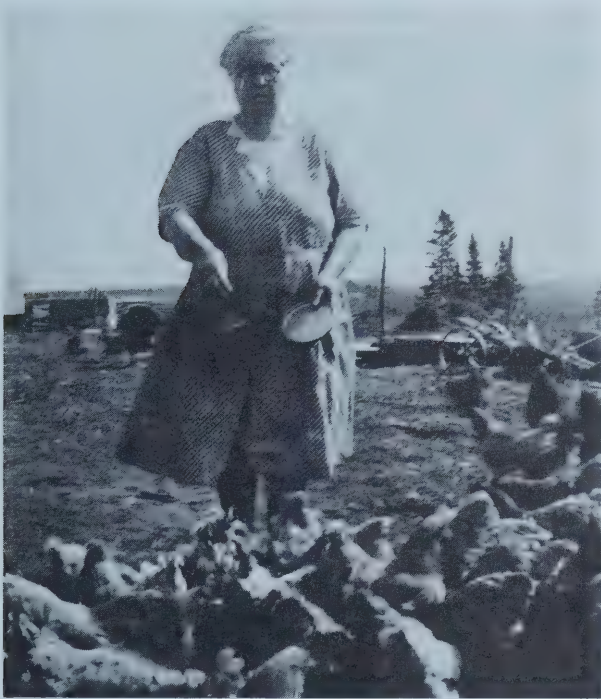


Four generations of the Comis family, L. to R.: John, Erwin, Otto, and baby Randall.

The family — his wife, Anna Marie, and three sons, Otto, Bruno, and Yvo, joined him on February 14, 1914.

John established his trade in Red Deer and in 1919 he purchased land on the Burnt Lake Road. The original homesteader of S.E. 24-38-28-W4, was a Mr. Darlo.

In 1922, John suffered an industrial accident, but resumed his trade in 1924, and remained at it until his retirement. He passed away in 1957, Anna Marie passed away in 1952.



Anna Comis, 1944.

Anna Marie was known as a fine cook, it was a treat to sample her delicious Bohemian recipes, especially her apple strudel. She had an arthritic condition which eventually confined her to her bed. John nursed her at home for several years before her passing. Though bed-ridden, her hands were never idle as she knitted countless pairs of socks and mittens. She also crocheted many beautiful pieces of work. She took a keen interest in community and world affairs. Her radio and newspapers were her constant companions to the end of her days.

John walked to town two or three times a week to get the mail, even on the coldest winter days. Very seldom would he accept a ride offered to him by a friendly neighbor for he was "getting his exercise." A real example of "participation" by today's standards, and perhaps to some extent part of the secret to longevity.

John Comis was an expert in all kinds of concrete work, this knowledge he passed on to his sons and grandsons. His skill could be found in many of the buildings in Red Deer. One of these being, the beautiful terrazzo floor in the old Bank of Montreal building. At one time there seemed to be scarcely a street that did not bear evidence of "Comis Concrete" work. Another example of his work, the Roger's house still stands on the S.E. ¼ 31-38-27-W4 in the Crossroads district. One of the few sandstone buildings left in the area, a symbol of a hard working generation.

Otto served overseas in the Medical Corps during World War II. He married Hylde Hart. They had six sons, Erwin, Eugene, Donald, Arllen, John and an infant son (deceased), and two daughters, Joyce and Darlene (deceased).

Otto and Hylde moved to British Columbia. In October of 1976, near Alturas, California, both Otto and Hylde died in an automobile accident.

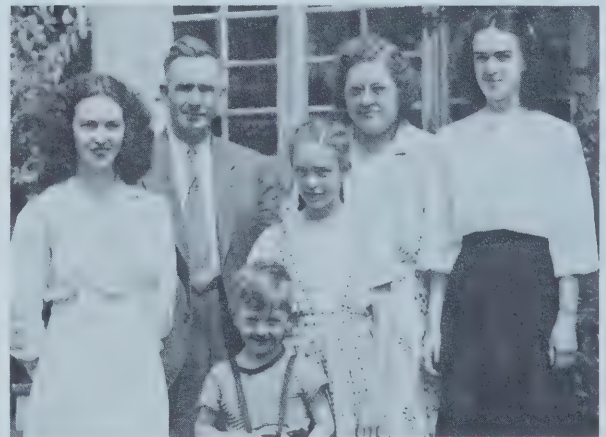
Bruno and his wife, Catherine (nee Willing), moved from Red Deer to Calgary in 1968. Bruno was stationed at A-20 with the Engineers. After the war he carried on in the construction business. Bruno and Catherine have two sons, Paige and Brian, and two daughters, Pat and Anita.

Yvo married Irene Hilsabeck. After Yvo's return from overseas, where he served with the Provost Corps, they moved to Calgary. They had three sons in their family, Cliff, Jack and Ron.

George Belich purchased the farm from the Comis Estate in 1959.

Cooper, Mr. and Mrs. Henry by William, eldest son of Henry and Freda

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Cooper moved from the farm at Bulwark, 12 miles east of Castor to Red Deer in 1943.



The Henry Cooper family.

Mr. Cooper's family by his first wife, Freda, who had passed away, were grown and gone from home by this time. There were two boys and two girls in this family.

Henry and his second wife lived on 43rd Street, between 50th and 52nd Avenue, across the street from where the new hospital is now, when they first came to Red Deer.

In 1945, this house was sold and they moved to the beautiful stone house, situated on twenty acres in the Crossroads district. This was the Arthur Rogers home on the S.E. 31-38-27-W4. During the few years they lived there, they raised a few cattle, kept two horses to ride and had a Jersey cow for milk. Dad bought a gravel truck and spent a few summers hauling gravel. He was still selling "Wear Ever" Aluminum, a job he started in 1928.

As Mother did not like to drive, they decided to sell the acreage and move back to town. Earlier, they had purchased a big house across from the old Nance building on 47th Avenue. They lived in this house for four years. Then then lived in a house on Michener Hill until they were no longer able to manage by themselves, then they went to the Sylvan Lake Senior Citizens Lodge.

The four children of Henry's second family who lived at Crossroads are all married; Lois lives at Courtney, B.C., Merle lives in Red Deer, Joyce is at Mayo in the Yukon and Kenny lives in Vancouver.

Mr. Cooper passed away in September, 1968, at the age of 76 years. Mrs. Cooper passed away in February, 1972, at 72 years.

Cowie, Donald and Lillian

by Mary (Cowie) Warren

My father, Donald Cowie, of Red Deer and my mother, Lillian Craig, of Didsbury, were married in Red Deer in 1948. I, Mary Christine, was born in 1948 and we moved to the Crossroads District in 1950. We resided there until 1957 when we moved to Calgary. Dad worked for the Central Alberta Dairy Pool and later for the C.P.R. A little sister, Cathrine Ann, was born in 1956.

I attended Crossroads school for four years from 1953 to 1957, completing grades one to five under Mrs. A. S. Crossley. Some of the classmates I remember, were Elna Baldwin, Marie Sanderson and Keith Neilson. I completed my schooling at various schools in Calgary and attended the U. of C. and the U. of A. to obtain my B.Sc. in nursing in 1970. I nursed in Edmonton and taught nursing in Red Deer at the Alberta School Hospital.

In 1973, Doug Warren and I were married, since that time we have resided in Edmonton, Toronto and

currently, Sarnia, Ontario. We have two daughters, Marika, born in 1976 and Michelle, born in 1978.

Cathrine completed all her schooling in Calgary and attended the U. of C. to obtain her B.Sc., majoring in music, in 1978. She then obtained a Masters Degree in Guidance and Counselling from Idaho State University in 1979. She is currently employed in that field in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Dad and Mother continued to reside in Calgary where he worked for the C.P.R. Dad retired in 1978. Mother passed away in July of 1976 and Dad followed in August of 1978. Both were laid to rest in Queens Park Cemetery in Calgary.

De Boer, Stoffel and Frouke

by John Kooiman

The quarter which is now owned by the Redell's was originally farmed by a young Dutchman by the name of Stoffell De Boer. He worked for Templeton Construction while starting a hog farm. Their place was approached from the old highway (C. and E. Trail) on a road that went west, turning north and crossing the C.N.R. railway. This is where Stoffell and his bride from the Netherlands spent happy years. They planned to make a living eventually on the avails of the farm.

In January, 1959, a tragic accident took place, which ended all their hopes. While tending a fire in the root cellar to keep it above freezing, a flash fire must have occurred, blinding Stoffel. As a result he perished in the root cellar by suffocation.



The de Boer family, L. to R.: Stoffel, Mrs. de Boer and Johnnie, 1976.

His wife and young son, thereupon, returned to the Netherlands. At the time, they were expecting their second son. These two boys were named John and Stoffel.

The Bill Wyntjes family farmed the place afterwards, before it was acquired by the Redells.

Depalme, Jean and Marguerite

by Frank Depalme

Jean Deplame sold his farm in Burnt Lake to Eric Johanson in 1919. Later, in the summer of 1921, he bought the Henry Hart place, N.W. 36-38-28-W4. In the spring of 1923, a young Ontario farmer by the name of William Stewart, came out west and bought the farm.

The Deplames then returned to France, where they stayed for about two years. They returned to Canada in March 1925. That same fall they bought a farm in the Shady Nook district where they have been ever since.

I can recall that in the spring of 1921 there was quite a serious recession and we sold our car and went back to driving horses. All the farm work was done by horses, and the threshing machine used a straw carrier instead of a blower. It usually took one or two men to stack the straw. I can well remember forking hay and straw from the rack into the loft. I was about twelve years old at the time.

My sister, Anne Marie, and I did not attend the Crossroads school as we went to the Convent school at that time.

As I drive by the old Hart place (the house is still there), I can always recall the time we lived there and I still have pleasant memories of it.

Deutsch, Rudy and Kathleen

I was born at Quinton, Sask. in 1922. I spent my early years in that little prairie community, north of Regina, during the Dirty Thirties.

My wife, Kay (Kathleen Probetts) was born in Winnipeg, Manitoba. We were married in 1946 when I returned from active service overseas. Before going overseas, I was a student at Athol Murrury College of Notre Dame, Wilcox, Sask.

In the fall of 1942, I joined the army in Regina, took my basic training from January to April in Camrose, Alberta. My advanced training was taken at Camp Borden, Ontario. We were posted overseas in July 1943, and into the theatre of war with the 1st Canadian Division, known as the Red Patch.

In late 1945, we were shipped back to Canada and I enrolled at the University of Manitoba, under a Veteran's program, in which I took a course in Agriculture.

In the fall of 1946, Kay and I went back to Raymore, Sask. and farmed there for three years. In the spring of 1950, we moved to Decker, Manitoba, where we purchased land and became registered seed growers. After 23 years of hard toil, clearing and breaking five sections of land. My two boys, Allan and Don, and myself decided to call it quits. At this time we were members of the Canadian Seed

Growers Association, members and directors of the Manitoba Pool Elevators and members of the Stock Growers Association. I also took my turn as president of the Royal Canadian Legion, vice-president of the Marquette Liberal Association and was on the board for Equality in Education.

Kay and I and daughter, Brenda, moved to Red Deer in the fall of 1973. The two boys remained in Manitoba, Allan at Hamiota and Don in Brandon. Allan is now in real-estate in Lacombe. Don also moved to a farm in the Blackfalds area. Brenda has moved back to Crandall, Manitoba, with her husband, Larry Rudd. They are farming and raising Simmental Cattle.

We bought the N.W. ¼ of Section 30-38-27-W4th, from Ernie Goldbeck, known as the Pete Goldbeck farm. We wanted a small place with grass, a barn and hay land, as our daughter had eight horses and would not part with them. She showed Arabians and Quarter horses and used her Thoroughbred for gymkhanas.

I went back into exotic cattle in the fall of 1973, I purchased a full-blood Simmental cow, imported from Switzerland, and some percentage Simmental, which I bought locally. We showed and sold full-blood Simmentals at the Canadian Agribition at Regina.

We did a transplant with our full-blood cow, Elegance 1C. She produced four excellent bulls. One of them, Pariian Pride, in his first outing was Grand Champion at Olds Exhibition in 1977. Elegance 1C, with her 1977 bull calf at side became Grand Champion Female.

We took an interest in Beefalo in the summer of 1974, when they were brought in from California.



Rudy and Kay Deutsch with their first 3/16 Bison bull calf.

We bought seven heifer calves and also a share in a sire known as, "Joes Pride". We liked the bison crosses for their extreme hardiness, ease of calving, lean meat, long productive life span and foraging ability. The Beefalo were not recognized in the Canadian Herd Book as a breed, so they never got going like the other exotic breeds. We took five of our Simmental and Charlois cows to Jim Burnett in Luther, Montana, to be bred by his $\frac{3}{4}$ Bison Bulls. The results being all female progeny.

We are now engaged in the development of a new breed, using the hybrid Bison. I have been working with Dr. Smith of Texas A and M University on blood typing. Hundreds of carcasses have been evaluated with significant results. In developing a new breed one must follow the rules and regulations of the Canadian Government's "Livestock Pedigree Act". These rules demand that there be no single pedigree source as a new breed base. After crossing two or more breeds the population is closed to any immigration. The breed development is then reduced to one of defining the number of generations of selective matings required to get a population processing to the degree of genetic stability. With a closed population some in-breeding is done and in this way desirable genes are fixed.

The animals used in such a closed herd will be one hundred half-blood cows of each of the following: Simmental, Charolais and Limousin. The bulls used will be $\frac{3}{8}$ Bison. This program involves inspection and record keeping of all the animals. The first generation of the closed herd would be F1's, a second mating would produce F2's, and F3's would represent the third generation, after the closing of the herd. The animals in this generation are eligible, on inspection and identification, to be the parents of the first registerable animals of the new breed.

This whole process takes many years, but we look to the future with a new breed with rugged characteristics and good, lean beef.

Doyle Family

by Thomas C. Doyle

Before giving our recollections, I would like to say that in our time we knew of no district designated as the Cross Road and are assuming that it is the one near our old home. This is about two miles from north Red Deer, to the north, at a point where the Calgary-Edmonton road crossed from the east side to the west side of the C.P.R. railway line. The south-west corner of our one hundred and sixty-acre farm was near the railway crossing. An east-west road intersected the railway line and the south-north road. The line ran through our land diagonally with about thirty acres to the north of it. The borders of this

quarter section were a section of school land on the south, the Calgary-Edmonton road on the west, a quarter section owned by one Mr. Petersen, a Dane, on the east, and we do not remember about the north one.

The farm neighbors we knew were the Petersens, the Rogers, Mr. Brennan, a bachelor or separated man, and a family of the name of Forbes living and working with him, the Murphys with children, Tom Jr., Mildred, and Gerald, the McLennans, and the Schunamans. We also knew the Reeds or Reids whose farm was farther north and was in following years purchased by Theodule Pomerleau. The McLennan and Schunaman farms were purchased by Mr. Louis Pomerleau for his sons, the McLennan one first and then the Schunaman one. Mr. and Mrs. Schunaman were good friends of my parents. He was an Englishman and had his name changed to that of his mother, Jones, when war was declared in 1914. He had been in the Imperial Army before coming to Canada, and returned to rejoin it shortly after the outbreak of war. We later learned from his wife in England that he had been killed in France. The Murphys and McLennans were Dakotans or from Montana and they returned to the States in our time.

We were in Red Deer from 1913 to 1916. Theodule (Pomerleau) was a conductor on the C.P.R. Calgary-Edmonton line even before that. In 1915, Louis Pomerleau, a good friend of my father from Frampton days, came out to see us with one of his sons with the intention of buying land and settling there. He returned early in 1916 with two other sons, Rene and Wilfrid, if I remember their names correctly, and they bought the McLennan farm. They also bought our horses, cattle, grade Shorthorn Durhams, beef type, hogs, Duroc-Jersey, and if I am right, chickens and ducks. A day or two before we left, I walked over to their new farm to say good-bye and see our horses, particularly the one I called my own, for the last time. It seems to me they were three in number. They were breaking land, and at their invitation I joined them in a bachelor supper, which included pork chops and buttermilk. Louis came east with our family, and I wonder if he ever returned on visits.

We left Red Deer because my father's health was not very good and we, the boys, were a bit too young to carry on. Along with this my uncle who owned the general store in Frampton was about to retire and willing to sell to my father. Two of my brothers visited Red Deer in the 1950's: first, Lewis and his wife, who saw Mrs. Theodule Pomerleau (he was away) and the Pomerleau brothers of the McLennan place, as well as Ed Hermary; then, my brother Jack, who went to the same farm and left a note on finding

no one at home. He later met and had a long conflagration with the two bachelor brothers; at least, they were still bachelors at the time. By the way, I am a bachelor myself — an old one.

There was a public school beyond the northwest corner of our farm which we could see from our house. We did not, however, attend such school or become acquainted with the pupils who did attend it. We went to Separate schools in North Red Deer, and associated with the people in that small locality. The Convent was operated by the Sisters of Wisdom (Les Soeurs de la Sagesse) and the other school — for more advanced boys — by Les Pères de Sainte-Marie de Tingeby. The Sisters whose names I remember are: Sister Mary, Sister Alfred, Sister Maurice, all Canadians, Mother, the Superior, Sister Antoine, France French, and Sister Rosalie, Belgian. The Fathers, Father Voisin, the Parish Priest, and Father Lamarre.

The Church and Convent were on the crest of the hill. The Church was a basement covered by a two-pitch roof. The houses of a few families stood nearby. Among these was that of the Hermarys, good friends of ours.

To go to school we crossed a section of school land. First, when we were only two, on horseback, then, when the number increased, by buggy, picketing our horses in a clearing a little distance from the school. Sometimes, when inspired after reading about the famous runner, Indian Tom Longboat, we would run to and from school — from the door of one to the door of the other. This section was criss-crossed with trails and holes, which we were told had been buffalo trails and wallows. Cree Indians would also encamp on this section every autumn on coming to town to spend their government stipend. There would be four of five tents, a couple of canvas-covered wagons, thirty or so horses and half as many dogs. After they had left the site would be strewn with empty orange cases, canned food tins, etc., showing that they had, if only for a short time, enjoyed the benefits of the white man's civilization.

The stores we remember in Red Deer were Gaetz Drug Store, Lords' Department Store, and a grocery store on the street leading to the station. We received the Red Deer Advocate as well as the now-extinct Montreal daily Star. I remember riding into town to pick up the mail on an evening, myself, my brother, Ray (who later died in Frampton at the age of eighteen years), and our friend Tom Jr. (Murphy) and hearing the gramophones blaring such war songs as "It's a Long Way from Tipperary" and "K-k-k-katie" from open-door restaurants.

This story, written by Mr. Doyle, was a reply to a letter written to him by Berthe Truant, asking for his

recollections of their times in the Crossroads District. This account is from the reminiscing of Thomas Doyle, his brother, Lewis, and Sister, Eileen (Doyle) Maher.

(The Editor)

Duhamel, Albert and Violet

Albert Duhamel was born in Chelmsford, Ontario, in 1896, and Violet Gay, in Elmira, Michigan, in 1903. They were married in 1917; Violet a child bride of 14. Albert was overseas serving in World War I, when their first child, Florence, was born in 1918. Albert was wounded in the hand and shoulder.

Upon returning from overseas he worked at lumber camps and each fall went to Manitoba and Saskatchewan, where he worked on threshing crews. He fell in love with the west and in 1928, moved his family by train to Wetaskiwin, Alberta. They then had four children; Florence, Joe, Dorothy, and Bill. Gerty was born in Wetaskiwin.

With a small pension and any kind of work, mostly brushing an axe and harvesting, enough money was saved to purchase a homestead. They built a covered wagon (the canvas was sewn by hand) and bought two horses. By summer they were ready, so in 1930, they started out for Dunvegan, Alberta. It took six weeks to go the better than 400 miles. Albert rented a vacant farm house and the family were settled there until a house, chicken coop, garden and grain field were ready on the homestead. Violet also took a homestead, and Albert got his soldier grant homestead, making three quarters in all. When the family were moved onto the homestead, the older children were boarded out in order to go to school.

Florence was by then working out. One time she took two wiener pigs as part of her pay on a farm and as they were delivering them to the homestead they got away. A bear may have gotten them as they were never seen again.

Marie was born in Fairview. In 1935, Albert and Violet had decided to leave their isolated homestead and move south. They moved in early spring as far as Vanrenna. They sold their cow, and figured out a three horse evener for the wagon. Violet made the top for the covered wagon on her machine and more belongings were added for the trip. In June all was ready and they said farewell to some dear friends and sadly left Florence behind. She was working and was later married in Fairview.

This was a bad spring following a terrible winter. Rain had swollen the rivers and by the time they reached Lesser Slave Lake it had flooded, so there they stayed near Driftpile. It wasn't all that bad though as Albert and Joe were able to find work hauling pilings for the railway with the horses. They

worked at this for a month while Violet and the children picked wild raspberries, to sell and eat. This added to the nest egg to buy a place but they didn't know where it would be. There were people from Ft. St. John, three families going south, and some leaving prairie drought to go north. There was a real camp of movers, all working for the government for better pay than they had had for years.



The Duhamel family travelling by covered wagon in the High Prairie area.

With three horses and a yearling colt that was lead behind the wagon, they left late in August. The wagon, Violet, and three small children went on a scow across the river. The horses were not allowed, so Albert, Joe and Dorothy rode them for about four miles. Some of the roads were under water and one bridge they crossed was floating. When travelling through Edmonton, the colt walked on the sidewalk. They had to stop at each pole and lead him around it as they didn't dare let him walk in the traffic.

They arrived in Red Deer in September and bought five acres of land which they later sold to Howard Claywell. They moved about a quarter of a mile east and waited until the school term was over. Albert bought a '28 Pontiac car and went to B.C. to see if the grass was any greener there. He came back and bought an acreage situated on the south west corner of the Henry Hart farm, (S.W. 29-38-27-W4th). There were no buildings so they rented a chicken house on the Heagle farm and lived in it until the new house was built.

Joe and Dorothy went to Central School, Bill to North Red Deer and Gerty and Marie started at Crossroads, walking two and a half miles to school. It was very cold sometimes as the janitor, Mr. Smith, was there little before the students. Often the kids



The Duhamel family, L. to R., seated: Donald, Violet, Marie, Albert and Ruth. Second row: Florence, Dorothy and Gertrude. Top row: Bill and Joe.

would huddle around the stove for an hour before taking up their lessons.

Albert cut stove wood to make a living. The whole family pitched in to help. Violet was the salesman, walking miles to take orders and arrange for delivery to customers.

Albert and Violet became grand-parents in 1937 when Florence returned and had her first baby in Red Deer. Ruth and Don were born to Albert and Violet after that. In 1939, Albert went back into the Army and served as a guard at the Red Deer Armories. Joe and Bill later went overseas. Joe was gone when his first child was born.

In 1945, Albert and Violet moved to a farm west of Rocky Mountain House, where they lived for a few years. When the boys returned from overseas, Joe bought the farm from Albert and Bill built the boarding house in Rocky for Violet. She operated it until she retired to Red Deer. Albert bought an acreage near Rocky, where Donald now lives.

Violet passed away in Red Deer in 1971, soon after her retirement. Joe passed away in 1973 and Albert in 1974.

The Duhamels had 33 grandchildren and 25 great grandchildren. Florence lives in Red Deer, Dorothy near Niskue, Bill and Don at Rocky, Gerty near Blackfalds, Marie at Vancouver, B.C., and Ruth near Drayton Valley.

When the Duhamels had their first children they didn't realize that in order to have a family reunion they would someday have to rent a hall or reserve a large picnic area to hold all of their descendants. The family still gets together once a year.

Duval, Yves and Germaine

Yves Marie Duval was born December, 1888 in Scee Finesterre, France. Growing into manhood, he did his army time in France and in 1910 received his diploma in the Arts of Fencing. He went to work in the mines in France and became a miner at heart.

In May, 1912, he decided to search for new horizons. He crossed the Atlantic Ocean to this big country of Canada to work in the coal mines at Coleman in the Crowsnest Pass. From there he came north to Red Deer, where he worked for Emile Hermary Sr. Mr. Hermary was also from France and they often reminisced about the Old Country. Mr. Hermary often talked of his brother, Theodule, who lived in Port De Calais, France and the fact that he had three daughters.

While in Red Deer, Yves had the urge to acquire a homestead and went to Hardisty, where he found nothing suitable. He went back to the coal mining in Rosedale.

In the spring of 1914, a friend told him there was big money to be made in the mines at Nordegg. Fourteen dollars a day sounded good, so he moved to Rocky Mountain House, where he had to walk to Nordegg. The journey took ten days. When he got there he found no work available. They were starting to construct houses there, so he dug basements in the frozen ground. A miner at heart, this was not his cup of tea. Hearing about the five mile tunnel being built in the Rogers Pass he moved on to B.C. Here he worked until the First World War was declared in August, 1914.

He was a soldier in the French Reservist Army, so he travelled to Edmonton to the office of the French Consulate, where he got his ticket to go back to France. Here he joined his old unit. Arriving in France on September 2nd, he was in the battle of Lamarne on September 8th. In the battle of (Laine) La Somme, he was wounded on July 20th, 1916. While recuperating from his wounds he did some visiting. In 1917, he rejoined the 19th Infantry Regiment at Verdon.

In the spring of 1918, he was called to the coal mines, and this was when he met the Theodule Her-



Mr. and Mrs. Yves Duval, wedding picture 1918.

mary family at Port de Calais. The Armistice was signed November 11th and shortly after, on the 18th of November to be exact, he married the eldest of the three daughters, Germaine. He got his discharge from the Army in April, 1919, and shortly after made arrangements to come back to this big Canada of ours.

It took 24 days travel over land and sea to reach Red Deer. They settled close to the Hermary family because Mrs. Duval spoke no English. In September, 1919, they got their Canadian Naturalization papers. Yves worked for the C.P.R. at the coal chutes, all the while keeping a keen eye to buy a farm home and land in the Red Deer area.

In November, 1919, twin boys, Felix and Joe were born. In June, 1920, the Duvals bought the S.W. quarter of 6-39-27-W4th, from Mr. Hazlett Sr., who was the father of the late Tom and Bill Hazlett, who lived in the Crossroads district, Bill's wife Sybil, still resides in the district.

In the spring of 1921, they moved to the farm and the old log house built by the Hazlett family. There were 75 acres broken, so there was a lot of hard work to be done. In 1923, Yvonne was born and Therese arrived in 1926.

Then came the Depression years, with everybody in the same boat of hard times. Years went by until the Second World War broke out. The twins by this time,



The Duval house built by Paddy Hazlett. Standing in front of house are: Marie Trudell, Mr. and Mrs. Jean Deplame, Gilbert Hermary, Mrs. Emile Hermary Sr., Antionette Hermary, Mrs. Yves Duval, holding one of the twin boys, other twin front row, Mr. Duval. Back row: Emile Hermary Sr., Eugene Bayer and Edward Hermary.

were of age to go into the Army. A coin was flipped between them, Felix went and Joe stayed on the farm with his Dad.

In November of 1943, Felix married Agnes Hagerman from Sylvan Lake. From this union came four boys, Bill, Jim, Bob and Phillip.

Yvonne got married in April of 1951, to Joe Fuchs of Clyde, north of Edmonton, and from this union there were children, Jeanette, Rose Marie and Jimmy.

Therese was married in 1946 to John Tinant, also of Clyde. They have seven boys and one girl, Louis,



The Duval family L. to R.: Yvonne, Felix, Germaine, Therese, Joe and Yves.

Raymond (deceased 1970), Roger, Felix, George, Robert, Jeanine, and Francis.

In April, 1945, Joe married Olive Fontaine from St. Paul, Alberta. In the fall of that year Mr. and Mrs. Duval purchased six acres of land with buildings from Eugene Bayer, who had purchased the Ralph Wilkens farm. Mr. and Mrs. Duval moved to their new residence and Joe and Olive made their home on the home place. They made the old log house their home for 20 years. From their union came Paul in 1949 and Lorraine in 1951.

Paul married Myrna Hoszouski (Tisdale) in August, 1980, and make their home on the farm also.

Lorraine married Wayne Rauhala, in 1972, from this union came Shauna and Laura. Lorraine, Wayne and family are now, (October, 1980), living in Inuvik, Northwest Territories.

Great things and changes have happened during all the years. Mr. Duval Sr., better known as Grandpa Duval to his many friends and neighbors in the district, will be 92 in December, 1980. He is doing well and staying with Olive and Joe on the farm. He has a saying "Life is like a big pie which we take a bite of every day of our lives."

Edgar, R. H. and Veda

R. H. (Bob) Edgar was born September 1, 1884 at Apsley, Ontario. He came west and homesteaded at Hespero in 1903. He married Veda Beeson on De-

ember 5, 1915. Veda was born July 11, 1895 in State of Idaho. Her family had moved to the Ridgewood district in 1910. Bob and Veda's family were as follows:

W. H. (Bill) born November 12, 1916

L. M. (Les) born November 8, 1918

R. M. (Bob) born December 3, 1922

John born February 12, 1925 — died February 13, 1925

Velda M. born July 6, 1926

The family lived on the Hespero farm until October 1927.

In July of 1927 Bob and Veda bought the Woodsworth farm close to Red Deer, consisting of a half section on 31-38-27-4. The children attended Crossroads public school and Red Deer High School. Bob and Veda resided on the Crossroads farm until retiring in the summer of 1946 at which time they purchased a home in Red Deer.



Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Edgar, taken on their 40th Wedding Anniversary, 1955.

R. H. Edgar was president of Central Alberta Pioneers and Old Timers Association, and was active in building the Pioneer Lodge. He was also Reeve of the County of Red Deer for several years and took a great interest in the welfare of Red Deer District and City of Red Deer. He served as Alderman of the City for some time. He passed away on July 4, 1959 at age of 75 years.

Veda continued to reside in their home until 1975, and now resides in the Plaza Apartments, and spends winters in Mesa, Arizona.



Sam, Bob (R. M.), Bob (R. S.), Bob (R. H.), Bill (W. G.) Edgar.

Edgar, Les and Sue

Les Edgar was born in Red Deer, November 8th, 1918, the second son of Robert H. and Veda Edgar, who at this time were farming near Hespero, Alberta. Les attended Bluebell School in that district. In 1927 the family moved to the Crossroads district to live on the property known as the Woodsworth farm. Les attended the Crossroads School. When he left school he farmed with his father until 1940 when he joined the 78th Field Battery, which was combined with the 22nd Battery from Gleichen and the 44th Battery from Prince Albert, Sask. to form the 13th Field Regiment R.C.A. They trained in Camp Shilo, Manitoba and Debert, Nova Scotia, and arrived overseas November 13th, 1941. They took part in "D" Day, June 6th, 1944, they also fought in Belgium, Holland and Germany. Les returned to Red Deer in 1945. In October 1946, Les married Sue (Landon) Pearce, a widow with one daughter, Judy. They farmed on Section 36-38-28-W4, the former Sam and Bill Blakely farm. Les and his brothers, Bill and Bob, farmed together for several years acquiring more land in the area. Upon the dissolution of their partnership, Les was farming close to one thousand acres, including the former Louis Wright quarter and the MacLeod farm.

Les was instrumental in assisting in bringing rural electrification to the area and was President of the local R.E.A. for several years.

Les was also very interested in flying; he obtained his pilot's license and purchased a light aircraft. He belonged to the Flying Farmers for a short

time, and along with other friends who owned light aircraft, flew north to the Arctic Circle.

In 1968 Les was elected as Councillor for Division Seven of the County of Red Deer. In 1971 he was appointed Reeve of the County, and in 1975 he was appointed as a part-time member to the Land Compensation Board by Attorney-General Marv Leitch. This was work in which Les was most interested and in which he had considerable expertise.



The Les Edgar family, L. to R.: Judy, Beth, Lynn, Pat, Sue and Les.

Les and Sue had three more daughters, Beth (Mrs. Duane Ogilvie), Lynn (Mrs. Earl Moker), and Pat (Mrs. Bob Wescott), who are all residing in the Crossroads District.

Judy (Mrs. Alf Caron) lives in Kelowna. there are nine grandchildren. the children all attended school at Crossroads, River Glen and Lindsay Thurber Composite High School.

Sue, a graduate of the Holy Cross Hospital in Calgary, is a former member of the Crossroads Community Club, Red deer Hospital Auxiliary, has worked with the rural organization of the Canadian Cancer Society, is a member of the Red Deer Ladies Curling Club and Sylvan Lake Ladies Golf Club. the family are members of the Knox Presbyterian Church in Red Deer.

Les passed away in October 1977, at the age of 58. The family continues to reside on the farm.

R. M. and Alma Edgar:

I was born in Red Deer in December of 1922 and have been fortunate in being able to spend most of my life in the immediate area.

I attended school at Crossroads and Mrs. Mabel Nash was my first teacher. I think going to a country school is a wonderful experience that has been

missed by so many of our younger generation. I finished High School in Red Deer and went to the University of Alberta in Edmonton in 1939. I joined the Royal Canadian Navy in the summer of 1942, spending the next three years on a Corvette doing convoy duty in the North Atlantic and on a frigette attached to a striking force in the English Chanel and the Bay of Biscay.

While on a short leave in Amherst, N.S. in 1943, I had the good fortune to meet Alma. She was born and raised in Amherst, where her folks were oldtimers in that area. Following my discharge in August of 1945, Alma came to Red Deer and we were married October 16th, 1945.

We bought the Benson Latam place in the spring of 1947, which was to be our home for the major part of our farming years.

With the help of our family, we built up our farming operation, the dairy portion being disposed of in 1972.



The Robert Edgar family, L. to R.: Robert S., Alma, Robert M., Polly Herman. Front row: John M. and Christine Corbett.



Edgar's Cameo Dairy farm, Highway 2 and Poplar Ridge Road.

Our family consists of R. S. (Bob) who married Linda Wood of Red Deer. They have three daughters: Jacky, Kathy and Terry.

Polly Ann married Jim Harman. They live in Vancouver and have two children: Quinn and Maren.

John married Lynn Soderberg of Red Deer and they have four children: Mike, Dawn, Brandy Lynn and Cassidy.

Chris who married Jim Corbett of Red Deer. They have one son, Jade and live in Kelowna.

Alma and I now live on Lot 19, Green Ridge Park, a subdivision we developed on the S.E. of 28-38-28, known as the old Billy Woof quarter.

Edgar, William Harvey and Margaret

William Edgar is the oldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Harvey Edgar. In 1941, he was married to Margaret Pearce. They have four children: William Gordon, born in 1942, Barbara Jean, born in 1946, Margaret Pearce (Peggy), born in 1949, and James Harold, born in 1952. The children all attended Crossroads School.

William Gordon married Jill Wiggins from Shady Nook. They have two children, Lorrie and Ian. They farm south of Sylvan Lake.

Barbara Jean married Dick Goodall, with the R.C.M.P., and they have three children, Mary, Mark and Becky.

Margaret (Peggy) is living on the McLeod farm and works in Red Deer.

James Harold married Joan Nelson from Brooks and they have two children, Tracey and Hal. They farm in the Crossroads district.

The senior Edgars, W. H. and Margaret, lived at Eckville for three years, but are happy to be back in the Crossroads District.

Federer, Henry and Flora

Henry Federer was born in Milwaukee, U.S.A. in 1870, of German decent. He met and married Flora Emelle in Farmington, Washington (where Henry was farming), on November 6th, 1898. They moved to Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, where Henry worked at the mission and was the local undertaker at the time. They immigrated to Canada in November 1915 where they spent the first winter in Raven, Alberta. In the spring of 1916, they moved into Innisfail. Flora worked in the local restaurant and Henry worked in the butcher shop to support the family. Henry was always a farmer at heart, so in January 1918, they purchased land in the Crossroads district and once again started farming. They had 162 acres which had less than 60 acres broke. Their dwellings were a log shack and two log barns with sod roofs. Some years



Flora and Henry Federer, 1914.

later they bought a house in North Red Deer, which they dismantled and moved by team and wagon, in four different sections. This took three to four days to do with the generous help of neighbors. They built a foundation and since no one was a carpenter it collapsed and they had to start over. They learned to build well through their mistakes because to this day the house is still standing on the same foundation.

To break their land they had a neighbor, by the name of Tom Hazlett come in with a tractor, but all other farming was done by horses.

They had three children, the last one died in infancy, and a girl, Marie, and a boy, Max, when they came to Canada by rail. Marie married a local man, Gabe Hermary. They had twelve children and there are ten still living. Max met a tragic death in a shooting accident at the age of 26 years in 1925.



The house moved from North Red Deer by Mr. and Mrs. Federer, taken in 1939.

During the Depression, they had no hard cash. Everyone was in the same predicament and all were happy. They milked ten to twelve cows and for a full week they got 8¢ a lb. for cream, which totalled \$5.00 a week. When you took a fat pig into town, it sold for 2¢ a lb.

They hauled grain into Red Deer to the elevator with horses and a sleigh. Henry had leather mitts for driving, made from a dog hide by Indians, in which he claimed he never had cold fingers.

For about twenty years, Flora sold baking, vegetables, chickens and dairy products to the cottage owners and campers at Sylvan Lake. She would do her baking of pastries, bread, cookies, cup cakes, etc, and make butter, etc., one day, and the next she would peddle it. Henry would do the vegetables and chickens. This resulted in Monday, Wednesday, and Friday getting ready and Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, she would be seen going down the Sylvan Lake trail, you could set your watch by her. It was not unusual for her to begin at 4:00 a.m. till late at night, but she always had a smile and time for her neighbors or anyone who needed help. She had an endless source of energy which helped them through the lean years. She had a girl to help her as the business grew, they were Catherine and Mary Quigg.

Their neighbors would get together during the winter for whist drives, etc. There were the Edgars, Rogers, Duvals, Hazeletts and Blakleys. Shrove Tuesday or Pancake Tuesday was a big get together for neighbors to drop in. Flora was known miles around for her talent in cooking. A big event for the grandchildren at Christmas was the concert at the Crossroads School. There were garden parties at the Rogers in the summer.

Transportation was horse and buggy or sleigh until about 1927 when they bought their first car. Flora went to Calgary with her son-in-law to purchase her new Model T Ford car. With only five minutes instruction, Flora took off for Red Deer. They never saw her till they got home and Flora was waiting for them, wondering what had held them up. She was well pleased with the performance of her new vehicle but Henry never took to the car. His pride and joy was his team of black horses, which many neighbors envied. It was a common site to see Henry trotting his team and democrat down the middle of the road, while a very annoyed driver in a car sat honking his horn for Henry to pull over; but he never would.

A few years after they lost their son, they adopted three brothers by the name of Galavans. Reg now lives in Spirit River, Alberta, Earl in British Columbia and Cryil, age 27, was reported missing in the airforce overseas.

In 1940, Henry's health was failing so they decided to retire. They sold to a couple from southern Alberta by the name of Lorentson. They moved down by the Red Deer River (known as the Three Mile Bend), until 1962.

Henry Federer died in 1944 at the age of 76. Flora Federer died on January 11th, 1977 at the age of 98. She lived a full life and in her later years devoted her time to the community and the church. She was known by many for her beautiful crochet and knitting work.

The Federers left being ten grandchildren, twenty-five great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren.

Flack, John and Emma

John Flack was a druggist in Stainer, Ontario, where he married Emma Hicks. They lived in Cre-more, Ontario until "the call of the west" brought them to land west of Lacombe in 1907, by Canadian Pacific Railway.

In 1917, they bought the S ½ 11-39-27-W4, from A. J. Goodey. This land was near the Red Deer River in the Crossroads district.

John and Emma had four children, Gordon, Arthur, Gilroy and Ada Louise. Ada taught school at Blackfalds, Jackfish Lake and Lacombe. Later she married Arthur Goodey.

Gordon also taught, places such as Carrit and Spruceville. Roy was a beekeeper for many years.

John Flack passed away in 1927. His wife, Emma, died in 1937.

The Flack home on the Red Deer River was lit by electricity from a river paddle-wheel for Thanksgiving in 1929.

Gordon and Roy farmed the river farm with horses and an early tractor until 1935 or 36, when the lower half was sold to E. P. Woodrow.

Gordon and his wife, Marie, were married in 1943. Gordon and Roy shared the upper half of the farm until Gordon's passing in 1958.

In 1962, Marie's sister, Linne Bell Myers, came to live with her. Marie passed away in 1970, and Linne Bell still lives in the Flack home.

Forbes, Montrose Archibald and Louise

When Mr. and Mrs. Forbes came to the Crossroads area, they brought five of their children with them. Some of the older children of the family remained in the United States. Those who came with them were: Lillian (Mrs. Neault) of Innisfail; Edith (Mrs. Menge) of North Sittus, Rhode Island; Bob, who was killed in an airplane crash; Doris (Mrs. Roth) of the Kneehill district, now deceased, and

Wallie of Red Deer, who passed away in January of 1981.

Garrett, Donald and Dolores (nee: Ward) by Dolores Garrett

Don was born in Lethbridge, Alberta, on June 18th, 1935, and received his education in the Lethbridge area. As a civilian at CFB Claresholm, he was transferred to CFB Penhold when Claresholm closed its runways in 1958. We met at work and were married in August 1959. I am a native Red Deerite, born on November 24th, 1940, and educated at Norma School and the Lindsay Thurber Comprehensive High School (LTCHS).

Our first two years of married life were spent in a basement suite in Red Deer. Then we moved to a farm (the former Austin quarter) owned by my mom and dad, Henry and Bea Ward. Four glorious years followed. The midnight treks to the outhouse with the coyotes howling and the owls hooting are still well remembered.

Don vividly recalls one afternoon when Sam Bahler asked him, my brother Jim, and neighbor, Jim Furnal, to crop shoot ducks on his land. Don borrowed a shotgun from George Coverdale and they all went duck hunting. The ducks were hungry. The shooting was good. And . . . the game warden was watching! Consequently, all the mighty crop shooters were requested to appear in court for shooting ducks out-of-season, on a Sunday, without a license! and to top it off, the ducks and guns were all confiscated. Needless to say, Don doesn't go crop shooting for Sam Bahler anymore!

Our two sons, Danny, born November 16th, 1963, and Darcy, born November 18th, 1965, unfortunately don't remember the old farmstead. In August 1966, we bought a home in the Valleyview Sub-Division (S.E. 6-39-27-4) in the Crossroads district. Our daughter, Sandra, was born on August 20th, 1968. (Sandra was our centennial project!) All three children go to River Glen School and the LTCHS.

Don is a Storeman at CFB Penhold with the Department of National Defence and I am an employment counsellor with the Department of Employment and Immigration in Red Deer. We all thoroughly enjoy country living and look forward to the day when we can move onto a farm or our own.

Giffen, George and Oretta

George Giffen was born in Taylorton, Saskatchewan in 1914, to Henry Giffen and Caroline (nee Palmer). Later they moved to Calgary where he met Oretta Kyler when his sister married her brother in 1930.

Oretta was born in Morningside, Alberta in 1911, to Marion Sylvester Kyler and Emma (nee Abel). She and George were married in Rocky Mountain House on November 13, 1933, where George and his father were now homesteading. They all worked hard on the land, with Oretta helping outdoors after her housework was finished.

The first four or five months of their marriage, the loving was fairly scarce. Now, as most women in those days, Oretta baked her own bread. It was pretty flat tasting but extra salt didn't seem to help. As time went on the salt supply got pretty low, so Oretta asked Grandpa to pick some up on his next trip to town. Grandpa thought this strange as he'd recently checked the salt and there was plenty, so Oretta got down the can to show him. Grandpa exploded with laughter. All these months Oretta had been baking bread seasoned with saltpeter that they used for curing meat!

Well, eventually they did have children. Margaret, Donald and Richard were born during their years on the homestead. In the spring of 1944, they moved to Sylvan Lake where George and his dad ran the Tip Top Cafe. George later went trucking with his sister, hauling for Alpha Milk. Two more sons, Norman and Glen were born during this time.

In March of 1947, George went to work for C.P.R. as a fireman. In April of that year, they moved to Red Deer. Their last son, Ken, was born a few years later.

In 1959, they bought twenty acres and a house from Latams, just south of Crossroads Speedway. There they raised cows, chickens and their kids, and a little crop.

George became an engineer for the railroad. Oretta was active in the Crossroads community, and the Orange Lodge.

After George passed away in April of 1966, Oretta stayed on the farm where she met Cecil Grabill in 1970. They were married in 1973 and then moved to Alix. They farmed and raised horses until retiring. She lost Cecil in a road accident in January, 1981.

Two sons lived in the Crossroads area also. Glen and his wife Edna, lived on an acreage belonging to Bill Edgar at SW 7-39-27-4. They lived there for three years until moving to Bill Edgar's dairy farm. Ken and I (Betty, nee Kuhn) were married in 1972 and moved to the acreage two days after our wedding. We lived here for a year before buying the acreage from Bill. We have since had three children, Chris, Beth and Michael.

My family is also from the Crossroads district. My father, Frank Kuhn, was born and raised in Fohren, Germany. He and a brother came to Canada by boat in the late 1940's. They worked in Ontario

coal mines until moving to Calgary. There he met Mom, whose name was Rosalie Hermary. Her family has lived right next to St. Joseph's convent since about 1917. They were married in 1953. A year later they moved to Red Deer where they bought a house next door to Grandpa and Grandma Hermary. In 1962, they bought forty acres south of the Highway 2a and Highway 11 junction. There Dad opened his own welding shop in the back yard. During this time they had six children, me (Betty), Frank, Helen, Jim, Bill and John. They lived here until 1978, then they built a house north of Blackfalds where they are living now.

Goldbeck, Peter and Ella

In October, 1944, Peter, Ella, and our young son, Ernest, moved to the Crossroads District from Gunn, Alberta, a small community, northwest of Edmonton. We purchased the former Harold Roger's farm and lived nine years in the original log house. We were told that it was an Inn or Stopping Place at one time for travellers along the old Calgary-Edmonton Trail. Peter farmed and kept bees as a hobby.

Sons, Ernie and Eric, attended Crossroads School and when it closed, they went by bus to River Glen and later to Lindsay Thurber High School.

Ernest, the oldest, was married to the former Ilene Malcolm from Innisfail. They have three children, Shelley, Terry, and April, and also three grandchildren. They now reside in Bowden, Alberta.



Ella and Peter Goldbeck and sons, Eric and Ernest, 1948.

Eric is married to the former Margaret Ann Sheard from Peace River, Alberta. They have one daughter, Dawn. They presently reside at Peace River.

Peter Goldbeck passed away March 9, 1969, after farming in the Crossroads District for 25 years. Ella now resides in Red Deer and has been employed at Michener Centre for 24 years.

Gregaire, George by Bertha (Pomerleau) Truant

George Gregaire came from St. Isadore, Quebec to Gravelbourg, Sask. and then on to Alberta. He was a bachelor with a college education, a very learned man. He lived kitty-corner to the Pomerleau farm in a log cabin with a dirt floor. The floor ended up being two feet below the door sill as a result of an annual spring cleaning. His cook stove which stood on a mound of dirt, today would be considered very modern as it had an eye level oven. Clean newspapers always covered his table and a rosary hung on his bed post. George raised pigs.

Shortly before his passing on, George moved in with the Pomerleau family. He was dying of cancer and needed special care and attention. He stayed with the Pomerleaus for many months then he returned east to be with his brother, Fred. He passed away at this time.

Grover, Stan and Grace and their sons Mitchell and Stephen

They took up residence in the McLeod House on the Sylvan Lake highway in April of 1957. Stan was employed with the C.P.R. at that time. The boys were bussed in students to Red Deer and attended the River Glen school. They lived there for five years and from there moved to an acreage east of Highway 2A. This acreage was originally part of the farm owned by Gordon Flack. They lived there for five years and then moved to Blackfalds where they are still residing. Grace joined the Crossroads Community Club while living in the McLeod House and is still a member. She held several offices while a member. Mitchell married Lorraine McKay and they have three children Craig, Jocelyn and Trevor. Mitchell is an independent trucker and goes by the name of Mitch's Transport. Stephen is still single and works for the Otto Bros. out of Lacombe on the farm and in the feedlot. Really enjoys his work.

Hart, Fred W. and Lily

Fred Hart was born at Ste. Phillippe, Quebec, on July 5, 1863.

He became a carpenter by trade at an early age,

and worked in the state of Vermont and other parts of eastern United States.

In 1889, he married a cousin, Miss Lily S. Hart at Grande Ligne, Quebec. Three years later, with their young daughter, Clara, and in company with his father and other members of his family, Fred and Lily Hart came west. They arrived at Calgary, and as the Calgary and Edmonton railway was not then operating on a regular schedule, they drove by team and wagon to Red Deer, arriving on March 29, 1892.

Fred Hart homesteaded on the N.E. 36-38-28-W4, the first dwelling was a hut made of sod, located on the N.W. corner of the quarter. After enough land was brought under cultivation to conform with homestead requirements, Fred devoted most of his time to his carpentry trade, while Mrs. Hart and the family took care of the farm work. He helped build the first Crossroads school around the year 1900, and was a member of the school board for a number of years.

In 1903, a log house was built on the S.E. corner of the same quarter section, replacing the sod hut.



Original Fred Hart home.

Fred Hart was a natural musician, with no training at all, his instrument was the clarinet. He was a member of Red Deer's first band, formed in 1904, and became assistant band master within three years.

Mrs. Hart, being a kindly, helpful person, assumed more than her share of the burdens of pioneer life.

After living on the farm until the latter part of 1927, Fred and Lily Hart moved to a home on the outskirts of North Red Deer, and following a two year illness, involving months of bed confinement at home, Fred passed away on January 20, 1932, at the age of 69.

Lily died following a short illness, November 5, 1934.

The Fred Hart family consisted of three daughters. Clara, married Glen Taylor (both deceased). Janet, married James Murphy (both deceased). Lily



Fred Hart family L. to R.: Fred, Clara, Janet, wife Lily and daughter Lily.

married Alexander Milne, they subsequently purchased the Henry Hart property. Mr. Milne is now deceased, but Lily still lives on the farm at time of writing. Their son William farms the land, including the original Fred Hart homestead. A fourth generation, William's son Peter, is also farming the land homesteaded by his great-grandfather.

The log house built in 1903 stood until 1967, it was in this house, Lily Milne was born in July, 1903.

Hart, Henry and Minnie

Henry Hart was born at St. Phillipe, Quebec on July 15, 1868. He was the son of William and Philomene Hart. His mother, who came from France, died 18 months after Henry was born.

Henry worked in the coal mines with his father and his older brother, Sam, at Minerville, in the state of New York.

He married Mary Anne Stimpson (Minnie), on February 26, 1890. Henry's father, brother, Fred, and step-brother, Jack, had already homesteaded land in the area and obtained the N.E. 6-39-27 for Henry when the original homesteader abandoned it. It was to this quarter that Henry and Minnie and their oldest daughter, May, came in June, 1893. Here they farmed for many years, until their oldest son, Walter, took over the farming of the homestead. They were blessed with six children. May, born on December 6, 1890 was only two and a half years old when she came west with her mother and father. She married William Milne in 1912. (See the William Milne story). Walter, their oldest son, was born June 29, 1894. He took over the original homestead and farmed it for a number of years. Walter married Mary Neilson in 1915 (see the Walter Hart history). Bertha Philomene, Henry and Minnie's second daughter, was born in June of 1897. She married David Durword

Holmes of Red Deer on May 15, 1918. They had four sons and three daughters. Mr. Holmes passed away in 1960. Bertha still resides in Calgary. Florence Mary was born September 5, 1900. She married George McMann, April 6, 1924. George worked for the Searle Grain Company and retired in Calgary. Florence and George George still reside in Calgary. Raymond William was born March 18, 1904. He married Lillian Leary of Blairmore on April 8, 1929. Raymond farmed the N.W. 36-38-28, for a few years before he joined the C.P.R. as an engineer. Raymond and Lillian had two sons and a daughter. Lillian passed away in Calgary on January 4, 1967. Raymond still resides at the Coast. Grace Hart born March 10, 1914, married Walter Steinback on June 11, 1940. They had one son. Grace lives at the Coast and works for Eatons in Vancouver. Grace worked at the Eatons store in Red Deer for many years.

Henry and Minnie Hart retired from the farm in 1942. They moved into Red Deer where they celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary in 1950.

Mrs. Hart passed away in her 83rd year on June 23, 1953. Mr. Hart died about two years later at the age of 87.

Hart, William Henry

William Henry Hart was almost 60 years of age when he came to the Crossroads area. He was born at St. Phillippe, Quebec in 1833, where he farmed a small farm. His first wife, Philomene was a native of France. William and Philomene had three sons and a daughter. Samuel married Addie Stimpson, Fred married Lily Hart, Henry married Mary Anne Stimpson and Susan married George Rogers. Separate histories of all the children of William and Philomene can be found in this history book. Philomene passed away about 1870.

William was remarried to a lady of Irish descent. There were two children born to this marriage, a daughter, Sarah, and a son, Jack. Sarah married Dan Atkins, their history is also included in this history book. Jack travelled from place to place working in logging camps. He died in Seattle on July 22, 1919.

It was 1892, when William, his wife, and family, arrived and homesteaded adjacent quarters in section 36-38-28-W4. At that time there were no trains running between Calgary and Red Deer and the trip was made by team and wagon.

Mr. Hart continued farming until his wife passed away in 1900. He was a hard-working man who was instrumental in bringing many other settlers to the area.

While living with his son, Henry, he became ill and very shortly afterwards passed away on February

10, 1919, at 86 years. Both Mr. and Mrs. Hart are buried in the Red Deer Cemetery.

Hazlett, James (Paddy)

James Hazlett was born in Northern Ireland in 1844. He chose to study for the ministry, but gave up his studies when he married Miss Elizabeth Keys. They were married in 1874, and farmed at Creaghen, Donemana, County Tyrone, Ireland. Their nine children were all born there.

Mrs. Hazlett was born in Pennsylvania, the daughter of a sea captain. When crossing the ocean from the United States to Ireland in a terrible storm, she vowed she would never cross the water again.

Their first boy, Josiah Keys (Joe) was born September 11th, 1875. A daughter, Jane Woods (Jenny) arrived February 8th, 1877. A second daughter, Isabelle (Belle) was born June 11th, 1878. On August 18th, 1881, a third daughter, Fanny was born. Their fourth girl, Elizabeth May (Lizzie) was born July 8th, 1883. Their second son, James (Jim) was born June 4th, 1885, William John (Bill), their third son, was born March 19th, 1887. On November 9th, 1889, Sarah Anne (Sara) was born. The youngest, a boy, Thomas Alexander (Tom), was born December 9th, 1891. In that same month, Mrs. Hazlett passed away.

Mr. Hazlett decided to move to Canada in 1894. With nine children, the eldest 17 and the youngest three years, he set out for a new life in Canada. A cousin who worked in the immigration service with the C.P.R., suggested he come to Red Deer. Upon their arrival they made their home in the log house with a sod roof on the Armstrong place, later known as the Nash farm. He homesteaded the SW-6-39-27-W4th.

The first home they built of logs with a sod roof. Later he built a log home with a shingled roof. This house was still standing a few years ago.

More commonly known as Paddy Hazlett, a big witty Irishman with red hair and beard, read Shakespeare to his children because there was no school in the area. He helped establish the first Crossroads school and served on the board for many years.

In 1916, he had his ribs broken when a wagon ran over him. He went to live with his son Tom, who was farming in the Coronation area. When Tom returned to the Crossroads district to farm, Mr. Hazlett came with him. In 1923, the year of the big crop, despite his age, he helped with the harvest. On November 27th, 1923, James (Paddy) Hazlett passed away after an attack of pneumonia.

Josiah Keys (Joe), after coming to Canada with his family, farmed in the Pine Lake area and ranched in Southern Alberta. He was in the South African war in 1901. Ranching and farming in the Carbon area

until 1931, when he transferred his farming operation to the Willowdale District. He married Isobel Douglas in 1937. They had two sons, James, born 1937 and Robert in 1938, who farmed in the Knee Hill Valley district. Jim now lives in Alix and Robert lives in Drumheller.

Janes Woods (Jennie) married Creighton Smith and later married William Oxland of Penticton, B.C. Jennie passed away in November of 1963.

Isobelle (Belle) married John Emerson Lowden, they farmed in the Red Deer area until 1908. They resided at Kilam, Alberta until 1944, when he passed away. Belle died in Edmonton in November, 1959. They had four daughters in their family.

Fanny married B. W. Tibbitt in February, 1903. They lived in Saskatoon, Winnipeg and Victoria, where she passed away in June of 1952. They had four sons.

Elizabeth Mary (Lizzie), when a girl of 13, kept house for her father and cared for the younger ones in the family. She married William Heenan of Sylvan Lake and later farmed in the Aspeland district. On May 28th, 1939, Lizzie passed away. She was survived by one daughter.

Sarah Anne (Sara) married J. H. Hamilton on November 9th, 1908, in Red Deer. They lived in Great Falls, Montana until her passing in June of 1961. They had a son and two daughters.

Hazlett, James Jr. and May

James Hazlett, the second son of James and Elizabeth Keys Hazlett, was born on a farm in Donemana, County Tyrone, Ireland, on June 4th, 1885.

James Jr. came to Canada with his father in 1894 at the age of eight years. Jim's education consisted mostly of his father's reading of Shakespeare, as there was no school until 1901. As a young lad, he spent five years as an able seaman at Vancouver. His voyages took him around Cape Horn, to Australia and several other Pacific ports. He returned to Red Deer to work on bridge crews, he was also employed on the Lethbridge High Level C.P.R. Bridge.

He enlisted with the 31st Battalion when the First World War broke out, and transferred to the 23rd Howitzer Battery. In a battle in April of 1917, at Vimy Ridge, his action in successfully freeing the gun carriers from the mud and moving them over the Ridge to support the infantry, won him the rank of King's Sergeant. This was a permanent sergeant's rank given on the spot.

He married Mary Tomlison, who he met in England. They were married in Calgary on October 23rd, 1919. They acquired land in the Balmoral District. He was an active community spirited man and had a large scale farming operation.

They had four children, two sons and two daughters. William James was born August 9th, 1920 and he married Marjorie Wynd of Australia. They have two sons and a daughter in their family. Bill is well known throughout the area as he is presently the county councilor. (1980)

Betty Mary was born October 23, 1922 and she married a Lethbridge farmer, Harry Patching. They have two daughters and a son.

Frank Geoffrey was born July 5th, 1924 and he married Velma McCharles. They had three sons and two daughters. Frank passed away in 1975.

James Hazlett Jr. passed away on October 26th, 1949. May Hazlett still resides in her own home in Red Deer.

Hazlett, Thomas and Matilda by daughter Barbara (Hazlett) Hamilton

Thomas Alexander Hazlett, better known as Tom, was born in Ireland, December 9th, 1891. He immigrated to Canada with his father, three brothers



Tom and Tillie Hazlett, 1924.

and five sisters, in 1894. His mother died at the time of his birth.

His father's homestead was located about three miles west of Red Deer on the Sylvan Lake Highway, now the Duval farm. The log house his father built was lived in up until the early 1960's.

The Crossroads School was established in 1900, a one-room frame building. Mr. James Hazlett (Tom's father) was the stonemason, he along with A. B. Nash and David Lynn, named the school. It was located where two highways cross. These were the Calgary-Edmonton Trail and the Snake Lake Trail (later the Sylvan Lake Road and now No. 11 Highway). Tom attended this school for about six years, then decided it was time to get out on his own.

About 1915, he purchased the E½ of 7-39-27-W4, now known as the Krogman farm.

Matilda Isabella White, who was always called "Tillie", was born in Australia, February 10th, 1892. She moved to New Zealand with her family at an early age. There, she took her schooling and a dressmaking course before coming to the U.S.A. and Canada in 1914. She made her home with Tom's sister in Montana for a while before coming to Alberta. In September of 1916, she and Tom were married in Red Deer.

About this time, Tom's brother Jim, was overseas in the army and wanted Tom to finish proving up on his homestead at Coronation, Alberta. That is where Tom, Tillie and Tom's father lived for about three years. Their first daughter was born there in 1918.

In the fall of 1919, they moved back to Tom's farm in Crossroads. They lived in two tents while Tom was building their house. The weather was very cold and after each snow storm the snow had to be swept off the tents so they wouldn't leak. It was late in November before they were able to move into the house. It was a long way from being finished, but was much better than the tents in the winter.

The house was built on the south quarter, and the next spring they decided to move it, with horses across the railway tracks to its present site. He also built the barn, which is still standing.

Being a fair carpenter and mechanically minded, it wasn't long before he had a tractor to help take the place of horses. Tom did a lot of custom work for his neighbors, sawing wood, grinding grain, etc. With his Rumley tractor and breaking plough he broke a lot of land in the Red Deer area.

His threshing outfit consisted of a tractor, grain separator, fuel wagon, bunkhouse on wheels for the men to sleep, and eight wagons, racks and teams to keep the machine going. Some of his customers supplied the horses and bundle racks and the men to drive them. Quite a sight to see, going along the

roads when moving from farm to farm. The fall harvesting was done in this way for many years.

Tom sold his farm in 1926 to Baron Roger de-Villenfagne de-Lodns from Belgium, but kept his threshing outfit and breaking plough, and continued to give his usual service to his many customers for several more years.

These were times of hard work but there was also time for pleasure. Tom played the violin and called dances at the local house parties, which were the social events of the community.

Tom and Tillie had a family of four daughters: Barbara Mary, born May 12th, 1918, Isabella Sarah, born September 4th, 1921, Matilda Ellen, born February 16th, 1924 and Patricia Alberta, born September 15th, 1931.

Barbara started school at Crossroads in the spring in 1925. She finished that year and took grade two the next. Mr. Gibson was the teacher.

After selling the farm the family made several moves in the next eight years. Tillie and the older girls took a trip to New Zealand for a year. Barbara and Isabella both attended school while there. After returning to Canada, they lived in the Crossroads district again for a short time and the two older girls went to school there. The teacher was Mrs. Mable Nash.

Then they moved to Red Deer, where the three girls attended school.

In the spring of 1932, the family moved east of Red Deer to the Willowdale District and it was there that the family made their last home together.

Tillie passed away very suddenly August 24th,



Four generations — Tom Hazlett, Bess Wengberg (granddaughter), Terry Wengberg (great-granddaughter), Barbara Hamilton (daughter).

1936. In 1945, Tom left Willowdale. He had a place at Leslieville, but soon sold it and went to the west coast, where he worked in a plywood mill. Patricia boarded and took her high school at the Red Deer Convent. Tom came back to the Red Deer area to retire and lived at Condor and Sylvan Lake. Later he had to move to a nursing home. He passed away January 3rd, 1968.

The story of Tom and Matilda's family is as follows: Barbara married Isaac Hamilton and they farmed in the Willowdale district until 1975, when they sold their farm to their son, Lloyd. They have six children, three sons and three daughters. When not travelling they still call the farm, home, and they spend most of their time there. Isabella married William Mugridge from New Brunswick. They live at Naramata, B.C., where they have a small orchard. Their family consists of four sons. Matilda (Mattie) lives in New Zealand. She is now Mrs. Downer, and has a family of two daughters and two sons from a previous marriage. Patricia (Pat) married Victor Maxson from Markerville. They live at Hixon, B.C., and have a family of four daughters.

As of August, 1980, Tom and Tillie's descendants, including their four daughters, are eighteen grandchildren and thirty-one great-grandchildren.

Hazlett, William and Sybil

Bill was born the third son of James and Elizabeth, in March, 1887. In 1894, he came to Canada with his father, brothers and sisters. Bill's mother had passed away before they left their farm in County Tyrone, Northern Ireland.

Bill went to school at Crossroads after the school was opened in 1901. He served overseas in the First World War.

On Bill's return from overseas, he purchased the home place, 5-39-27-W4. He and Sybil Alford were married on December 22, 1926.

Sybil and Bill had four children; Lois, Dorothy, Geffory and Sally, who all attended Crossroads school. Their oldest daughter, Lois, passed away very suddenly on November 22, 1937.

Bill served on the school board for many years and Sybil was affectionately known as "Aunt Sybil" to all the children that passed her door on the way to school.

Bill farmed a large amount of land and had a big herd of range cattle. These cattle were pastured on the S.E. 20-38-28-W4. In the early summer and late in the fall, they were seen making the trek to and from pasture.

Sybil reminisces about the skating parties that were held on the lake that lies to the northeast of their building site.



W. J. Hazlett on Rumley tractor.

Dorothy took her nurses training and works at the Foothills Hospital in Calgary. Geffory married Delaine Ahearn on November 5, 1966. They have three boys; Greg, Jason, and Tim. Geffory owns land west of Blackfalds and also farms the home place. Sally married Ken Morton, they have three children; Cara, Kalen and Shawn. Sally and Ken farm in the Brookfield district.

Hermay, Emile and Maria

In 1906, because of religious persecution in France, Emile Hermay emigrated to Alberta and settled in Innisfail. There he built a frame house and sent for his wife, Maria and their four children. During their four-week trip by boat and train, they ate salted ham and cherries which they brought in great abundance from home. They ate little else except bread which they were able to buy. However, they arrived safely and in good health at their destination.

Meanwhile, Mr. Hermay was helping to construct the Catholic Church and fell from the roof. Following convalescence from this mishap, a rafter broke loose and fell on him and fractured his leg. When Maria saw how emaciated he was as he lay in Holy Cross Hospital in Calgary, she wanted to return to France. Emile was able to persuade her to stay on. A boarder helped her start a garden and the children helped to sow, weed, reap and peddle the vegetables. Since most of the neighbours were English-speaking, Antoinette soon learned to say, "You want some vegetables? Five cents a bunch." One of the boys would pull the little wagon with the produce while Antoinette rapped on doors and made the transactions. The family was able to support itself through

gardening because of the help of kind neighbours and friends. However, Mr. Hermary's leg did not mend well and gangrene set in. It was necessary to amputate. On the day the operation was to take place, it was discovered that the leg was healthy. The miracle was the answer to many fervent prayers.

In 1910, the family moved to Red Deer and settled just north of St. Joseph's Convent, where Emile had purchased twenty-two lots from J. B. Durand. This move was in the interest of a Catholic education for the children since the Fathers of Tinchebray, formerly of Normandy, France, decided to leave Innisfail and make Red Deer their centre. Their Centre was housed near the Convent also and later became the first Montfort School when they left Red Deer to the dismay of all who knew them. Father Voisin, in particular, held the love and esteem of the parishioners as he had contributed much to the establishment of the Separate School system in Central Alberta. The children attended school at the Convent and were taught by the Daughters of Wisdom. In 1911, Emile was elected to the Separate School Board where he served almost continuously until his death in 1948. In 1913, he was also elected for a term to the North Red Deer Council.

Emile built his new home of brick and also constructed other houses in Red Deer, some of which are still standing. They can be identified by their French-style roof. He did well in construction and later on in real estate but he had his heart set on gardening. With his spirit of adventure and some guidance from the Experimental Farm in Lacombe, he was able to raise exotic fruit trees along with beautiful shrubs and flowers. He spent many hours pruning and grafting trees and was rewarded by the new kinds of fruit they bore. Many people came to visit and admire his gardens. They were especially fascinated by the

weeping caraganas he had developed. Of course, he was very practical-minded regarding the vegetable gardens. They always produced bumper crops. The large asparagus patch, situated near the front of the house, was in itself larger than most people's gardens, and produced abundant "bunches" which were sold from door to door by other members of the family.

Gradually, more land was acquired on both sides of Gaetz Avenue from where the Parkland Mall now stands, north to the Sylvan Lake turn-off on Highway 2A. It had to be cleared of brush, the trails improved and sloughs drained. With his three sons and some hired help, these tasks were done with little mechanization at first. They invented a brushcutter, which they named "brush-devil". Its horizontal saws would cut the brush as it was drawn by horses. Many little ditches were dug by hand so as to run off the excess water. Later, tractors and breaking plows were purchased for breaking up the soil. In some places, buffalo bones as well as stumps impeded progress.

Barley and oats were the main crops grown on the land. However, some land was left in brush and pasture. A large tin-roofed dairy barn was built into the side of the hill making it possible to drive into the loft. Many sheds and pens were also built. The dairy housed fifty cows and a dozen horses. The huge loft stored a lot of hay, grain and chop. Besides the usual farm animals and poultry, such things as rabbits, goats and pigeons also found homes on this farm. In the late forties, bees were imported, more for an aid to pollination than the desire to produce honey. However, it became an abundant and welcome crop as well.

The family worked hard inside and out. Maria's personality complemented her husband's creativeness. She assisted him in all of his ventures, whether it was raising a hundred canaries in the living room or caring for his many house plants. Outside, she helped with the gardening and dairy chores. Even at the age of seventy, she would rise early and put in a long day's work, taking only a ten-minute siesta after the noon meal. She raised her own family and often had children who boarded so that they could attend school.

During the Spanish Influenza, she nursed many sick in North Red Deer. The doctor directed her to suck on a clove of garlic as she made her rounds from house to house. It may not have been very pleasant for her patients but she did not contract the disease and she was able to save a few lives. She was midwife at the birth of many of her grandchildren and she helped to raise her youngest son, Edouard's, family. To many people of the district, she was known for her French cooking. There was a constant flow of visi-



Emile Hermary Sr. family, standing L. to R.: Edward, Antionette, Gilbert. Seated: Maria, Gabriel and Emile.

tors on Sundays. Often, the large dining room would hold two sittings. Her simplicity and Christian hospitality endeared her to many hearts. "Emère" as she was fondly called by many who knew her, died in 1948, four months after her dear husband, Emile.

The oldest son, Gabriel, was employed as a brakeman on the C.P.R. He served in World War I and then returned to his employment. In 1922, he married Marie Federer and lived just north of the Red Deer River, near the present Riverside Plaza. Later, they settled on a farm near the three-mile bend. There, Gabriel and Marie raised ten children. Their oldest son, Emile, married Phyllis Murray and they had four children; Cyril, Wayne, Patricia and Darcy. Emile lives on the Calgary-Edmonton Trail where he operates his gunshop, "Emile of Many Guns." Their oldest daughter, Antionette (Annette), married Franis Knievel. They have a family of four; Wanda, Lewis, Daryl and Linda. They make their home in Edmonton. Their second son, Albert, married Marlene Sirois and they have five children; Myron, Laura, Garry, Marion and Della. Albert is at Spirit River and Marlene lives in Red Deer. Cecile married Rod McDonald, they had four children; Mervyn, Harry, Romona and Patricia. They live in Red Deer. Therese married Roy Rogers of Bentley. They had four children; Frank, Laverne, Kenneth and Ralph. Flora lives in Montreal. Lucy married Lloyd Mitchell. They have two children, Lori and Bert and they live in Chilliwack, B.C. Clarence married Trine Bore. They live in Red Wood, California and have two children David and Kevin. Leo married Delorose Campbell. They have one son, Shawne, and live in Red Deer. Edward married Pat McTrowl. They also live in Red Deer.



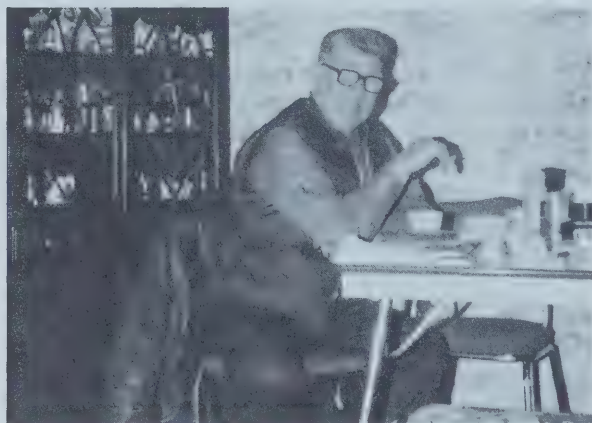
Gilbert Hermary family, L. to R., back row: Bernard, Gilbert, Johnny, Madeline, Uncle Rene. Second row: Marie and Marguerette. Third row: Robert, Maurice, Burnedette, Paul, Andrew. Front row: Gilberta, Michael, Jullitte and Julian (deceased).

The Gabriel Hermary family all attended school at St. Joseph's Convent, travelling there by buggy and sleigh. The horse was tied up in Grampa's barn until school was out.

Gabriel died in 1963 and Marie in 1967. Their home place was eventually sold to Consolidated Concrete and to the city for lagoons in 1959.

Gilbert, the second son, married Madeleine Pivert of Big Valley in 1925. They settled on a farm in the Burnt Lake district where they raised thirteen children. In 1942, they moved to the Moreau place just west of the home place and what is now Magill Development. Their children were; John, who married Cecile Van Raes. They have a family of six children, and reside in Edmonton. Bernard married Christine Gagnon, they live in Red Deer and have eight children. Marie, the eldest daughter, married Henry Landry, they have four children and live in Red Deer. (See the Landry story). Marguerite, married Dick Ryan. They have two children and live in Vancouver. Robert married Regina Schmitt, they have six children (one deceased) and they live in Red Deer. Maurice married Olive MacKenzie. They have a family of six and live in Surrey, B.C. Agnes died as a baby. Bernadette married Vinnie DeBrole, they live in Fort McMurray and have four children. Paul married Kenneth McLeod, they have four children in their family and live at Clive. Andre married June Ward, they live in Sherwood Park and have two children. Gilberta married Kenneth Gusek, they have five children and live at Drayton Valley. Michael married Bonnie Biggs, they have four children in their family and live in Edmonton. Juliette married Nelus Neilson, they live in Stony Plain and have four children. Julian married Laverne Vollman, they have two children and live in Stony Plain. Julian passed away on August 18, 1974.

A brother of Madeleine's, Renne Pivert, made his



Dan MacIntyre hired man and long time resident at Gilbert Hermary home.

home with Gilbert and Madeleine for many years. He came to live with them in 1935. At the age of 90 years, Renne passed away in 1980.

Another longtime resident with the Gilbert Hermary's was Donald MacIntyre. He was with them for 13 years. He left to live with the Oscar Johansons in the Burnt Lake district.

Madeleine passed away in 1967, at the age of 62. Gilbert died at 78 years in 1976.

In 1922, Emile and Maria's only living daughter, entered the Congregation of the Daughters of Wisdom and made Religious Profession in January, 1924. She is known as Sister Emile du Coeur de Jesus. She taught music in Eastern Canada for many years and was then transferred to Alberta. She is presently residing at St. Joseph's Convent, near the home where she was raised. At eighty years of age, she is still giving piano and violin lessons.

In 1924, Edouard, the youngest child, married Lydia MacDonald of Stettler, Alberta. They made their home with Emile and Maria. Edouard continued to expand the farm and eventually thirteen children were born. In 1945, the house was enlarged to accommodate the growing family. That was the year that Emile and Maria celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary. It was a glorious event when Sister Emile (Antoinette), thirty-two grandchildren and many, many friends gathered to honour them.

Soon afterward, the older grandchildren began to leave home and start families of their own. But Edouard's children, who were born and raised on the original homeplace, remained on until a couple of years after their grandparents's death in 1948. Henri, the eldest son, married Eileen Wells from Clearview District and now lives in Central Park in Red Deer. They have six children and three grandchildren. George, the second son, married Margaret Beilman of Primate, Sask., and now live on a farm near Penhold. They have eight children and three grandchildren. Raymond married Betty Pardue of Red Deer and settled in North Red Deer. They have five sons. Harriet, the eldest daughter, entered the Congregation of the Daughters of Wisdom and is presently stationed in Ponoka. Rosalie, the second daughter, married Frank Kuhn of Calgary and they live near Blackfalds. They have six children and three grandchildren. Jeanne married Roland Coulombe of Edmonton where they presently live. They have one daughter. Roger married Audrey Jeske of Red Deer and now live in Morningside district. They have three children. Bertha married Graeme Cameron and also lives in Morningside. They also have three children. Louis married Ruth Johnson of Raymond and settled in North Red Deer. They have five children and one grandchild. Joseph married Enid

Malcolm of Innisfail and settled on the former Plumb farm, six miles north of the home place. They have two daughters. Marie is not married and lives in North Red Deer. Philippe married Alita Bouchard of North Red Deer and they live in Leslieville. They have three children. Adrian, the youngest of the family, married Glenda Gilchrist and they live at the home place. They have three children.

As this story goes to press, the homeplace is doomed to be incorporated into a city development. It has had four generations within its walls and contains many fond memories for family and friends alike. It is a testimony to those dear forefathers who sacrificed much and toiled so hard for their family. Although all the buildings which were once the property of Emile and Maria may eventually disappear and the land change hands, the memory of these pioneers will always linger in the hearts of those who knew them and their influence will continue for many generations to come.

Jackson, Asa and Hannah by Hannah's niece, Lella V. (Kendrew) Bodwell

Hannah was the youngest of three daughters, born August 17, 1870, to John and Sarah Wass Kendrew, at Sandcliffe House Thrilby, England. Five brothers followed, but after the birth of the ninth child, a daughter, both Mother and baby died, leaving a family of very young children.

In 1888, the family decided to move to Canada, consequently a sale was held. They farmed in Quebec for a few years before moving to Brandon, Manitoba, where a dairy farm was purchased.

Hannah at this time, struck out on her own and worked for a doctor's family in Brandon. They had one little boy, whom she loved dearly. I believe she spent three years with them, she was very devoted to her work in the church, temperance league and Sunday school. She never tired of talking about her group of teenage girls. Hannah had a wonderful disposition and always saw the best side of any situation, loving and laughing always.

In June of 1896, she returned to England and on July 19th, 1898, she married her girlhood sweetheart, Asa Bolton Jackson. He was a draper and tailor. During all the years I knew him he was never happier than when his fingers were using a needle. His patience in ripping out and making over a garment was just great. I still have his thimbles in my collection.

In 1913, they returned to Canada and spent their first Christmas in the West at my parent's (Joe and Elizabeth Kendrew) home in the Edwell district. All of the Kendrew families had moved west while Hannah was in England. What a Christmas it was; Hannah brought a large sack of sugar and made it all into



Asa and Hannah Jackson.

candy. There was fudge, chocolates, taffy on snow and pulled taffy. It was great for us children who had never had much in that line.

I also remember, Asa walking about twelve miles one very cold, snowy day to borrow a quart of wheat from a farmers bin so that we could have a bowl of Frumity for our Christmas Eve supper. An English tradition that was always observed in our parent's home too.

Asa was one of the tallest men I have seen, being six foot four inches in his stocking feet. To a child of seven he looked pretty tall. He was a kindly man with a twinkle in his eye and slow to anger.

They soon bought part of Section 31-27-38-W4, in the Crossroads district, where they spent many happy years. They lived in a tent while building their house. A barn and chicken house were also built.

For about four years, Hannah worked at the Indian Industrial School at all stages of employment, from laundry through housekeeping, to Matron for a time. She walked both ways from her home to work every day and enjoyed every minute of it. Asa worked for a time at Campbell, Wilson and Horne, a warehouse in Red Deer, and also at Tom Baines taylor shop. He also walked both ways until a horse and buggy were acquired and then Hannah drove him one way.

After the First World War, the returned men were give their jobs back and Asa helped farmers for helping him. For many years he was caretaker of the

Crossroads School, walking there every morning carrying a pail of drinking water for the teacher and the children, a distance of one and a half miles. He also tended and cleaned the furnace.

During 1945, they had a chance to sell their place to Mr. and Mrs. Harold Bowell of Rimbey and because Asa had developed chronic arthritis they decided to do so. After a holiday at the Coast, with no beneficial results, they returned and bought a house in Innisfail for a few years before returning to Red Deer, where they bought a house in Parkvale. Here they were very happy, with gardens, flowers, church, friends and relatives. No one ever left their home without a cup of tea and a sandwich, cookies or cake and more often with some to take home.

Asa died November 19th, 1948 at their home in Parkvale. Hannah remained there keeping herself very busy until she retired to the Red Deer Nursing Home in August of 1963. She passed away in the Red Deer hospital, after a fall, on March 30th, 1966. They both lived a full and active life, I am sure their only regret was that they had no children. A little girl was born, Reta Mary, while they were still living in England, but she died at ten months.

Hannah and Asa are both buried in the Red Deer cemetery.

Jahraus, A. E.

by A. E. Jahraus

My family and I arrived at the Crossroads district in the fall of 1944. My Dad bought the Heywood place. Henry Bollinger (Dad's old friend from away back in South Dakota) arranged the deal. Much credit must be given him for his assistance then and in later years.

Dad passed away in 1948. Mom went back to her old home at La Crosse, Washington and married Henry Pyle. She passed away in 1973 at La Crosse.

I stayed at Crossroads and raised a family of eight children. Most of us still live in central Alberta.

I will always remember those good years on the acreage. We were very busy and had wonderful neighbors. The Reeds, Baldwins and Goldbecks just to mention a few. Without their help things would have been much more difficult. I can't think of any-time in all those years that help wasn't as close as the nearest neighbor.

A typical incident was, a very cold night when my furnace quit. I phoned Ernie Reid at 10:30 or 11:00 p.m. and he came right over and we were able to get it going again. I still get the chills when I think of that time.

Some of them have passed away now and the rest have moved to the city as I have, and are in another

chapter of our lives. Time alone can tell us what the future holds for us, but those good times will always remain in my memory.

Kellington, Clifford and Esther

by Florence Kellington Currie

My parents were not pioneers of the Crossroads area, however, they spent their later years there and they were pioneers in Saskatchewan and Alberta.

My dad, Clifford Kellington, was born in Dauphin, Manitoba on April 20th, 1900. His father, James Vines Kellington — later located at Naicam, Sask. He was a farmer with fairly large holdings of land. Clifford's mother, Annie McClaughlin, was of the McClaughlin car industry family — later sold to Buick.

My mother, Esther Elvida Lunden, was born in Branvald, Norway, near Oslo on October 16th, 1904. Her family immigrated to North Dakota when she was two years old. Her family later moved to Naicam, Sask.

Mother and Dad were married in Naicam on January 31st, 1924. In 1928, they moved to Peace River, Alberta, via train. Here my father and grandfather Lunden worked as carpenters. These were hard times. I remember a story mom told me a few years ago. Mom and dad had saved, harvested a big garden, and bought meat for the winter. The meat was frozen in an outdoor box. Mom and dad enough money to take in a movie — they did, and when they returned home, their meat was gone. Somehow they survived.

Later, the family moved to Clyde, Alberta, where my father farmed — using horses — and worked as a carpenter. Mom kept the farm running while dad was absent. My father was a good farmer; I recall him saying during a thunderstorm — "Good, the ground needs nitrogen". One year, of thirteen pigs in a litter, dad raised twelve selects and one bacon.

This was during the depression years. The years of wandering, homeless men, many of whom shared meals with us and helped in some way, chopping wood, etc. Family friends later told me that when they felt depressed they would go over to the Kellingtons because Cliff could always cheer them up. His very dry sense of humor helped all of us over rough spots. During these years there are many great memories of trips to the lake, family and friends for dinner — home baked bread, fresh churned butter, new potatoes and creamed garden fresh peas. Visits to the homestead; north of Clyde; and sliding down an old straw stack which proved to be a hornet's nest. Our neighbors had a radio so we walked half a mile one evening to hear a Joe Lewis fight.

We did get our own radio about 1936, it ran on batteries. We used kerosine lamps for lighting.

At Clyde, we lived in a consolidated school district so buses picked us up in the fall and spring. In the winter the farmers sleigh pooled to transport us to the highway bus stop.

In 1939, we moved from Clyde. We cried when a stranger led away our favorite roan cow. We were headed for Red Deer in an old truck we called the Mosquito. Dad was sure he could get work in Red Deer at the army camp. Because mom became very ill we stopped at Ponoka and rented a house. During our stay there dad did work in Red Deer and during his spare time he constructed a three room trailer. The overall measurements of this trailer when set in a lot were twenty-one feet long and twenty-eight feet wide. The two outside rooms folded; the floor up; walls in; and roof down to hold the floor and walls in place. The trailer was then regulation size to move on a highway. He should have patented this design.

Dad worked in Red Deer and Penhold on the army and airforce facilities.

In 1940, we moved to Red Deer. The trailer was being used at the army camp for housing of construction workers. There was no housing available so we lived in an old lumberyard office and garage, while dad, mom and my brother, Erling, built a new home for us in nine days. The house, complete with cellar, well, and our first electric lights, was located in Parkvale. The family lived there until July of 1947, when we moved to 48th Avenue, near the old South School. Dad built many homes in Red Deer. They are still in use. I remember the beautiful oak floors he laid. He also refurbished the old Paris Cafe.

After dad's retirement, mom and dad moved to Edmonton and then bought a farm in Peace River. He sold the farm in 1951 and moved back to Red Deer. They lived at 5349 — 42nd Avenue. They bought the farm near the Red Deer golf course sometime in 1953 from a man named, Steele. Dad had eighty acres of cultivated land which he worked with a tractor. They also cared for foster children.

Dad sold the farm in 1961, to a veterinarian, Dr. Marra, and moved back to Red Deer at 5349 — 42nd Avenue. Here he lived until his death at the University Hospital in Edmonton in 1964. My mom continued to live there until ill health forced her to move to Maudie and Don Wrights where she lived until shortly before her death in Calgary on January 6th, 1976.

The descendants of Clifford and Esther Kellington, were three sons and four daughters. Erling James Kellington was born October 31st, 1924. He joined the Canadian Highland Division in World War Two and lost his life in Caen, France, in June of 1943.

I, Florence Carrie was born March 29, 1927, attended school at Clyde, Ponoka and Red Deer, and obtained a Bachelor of Education degree at the University of Alberta and Sacramento State College. I also attended Fullerton State College and United States International University. On July 12th, 1947, Glenn O. Currie and I were married. We live in Anaheim, California and we have two daughters in our family. Marion Esther, born April 14th, 1948, married Glen E. Mathis Jr. on February 25th, 1967. They have three sons, Glenn, Jared, and Wade. Kimberly Jean, our youngest daughter, was born July 15th, 1958 and married Michael John Wasserman on June 7th, 1980.

Alberta Jean was born March 21st, 1931, she attended school in Red Deer. On December 30th, 1952, she married John Edward Shaw. They now reside in Three Hills, Alberta. They have four children, Debbie, born in 1955, married Glen Maclean in 1977 and they have one son, Sean. Tom was born in 1957, Cathie arrived in 1959 and Jamie in 1961.

Stewart Patrick was born March 17th, 1933. He attended school at Red Deer and the University of Alberta. He married Annie Hansen in July, 1963. They had three children, Jo Ann, born in 1964, Stuart Patrick, born 1965 — deceased, and Christine born in 1968. Stewart died on January 13th, 1978 in his 45th year.

Jack Alfred was born March 15th, 1937 and attended school in Red Deer. He resides in Hope, B.C. where he is employed as a Hot linesman.

Maudie Marilyn was born March 19th, 1940. She attended Red Deer School. She married Donald Edward Wright on May 31st, 1958. They live in the Shady Nook district, west of Red Deer. They have five children. Shelly was born in 1961, she had one son, Timothy, born in 1979. Cheryl was born in 1962, Reg in 1964, Wendy in 1967 and Karen was born in 1969.

Anna Claire was born in January of 1942 — deceased March of 1942.

Kennedy, James and Edna

James and Edna Kennedy moved from west of Didsbury to the Crossroads district in May of 1940.

James P. Kennedy was born in Michigan, U.S.A. in 1892. He came to the Carstairs area in 1900 with his foster parents, Alais and Sarah Schwinn, who homesteaded there.

Edna Kennedy was born in 1900, in Missouri, U.S.A. She came to the Carstairs area as a young baby with her homestead parents, Charles and Anna Bales.

The Kennedys were married in 1928 and farmed near Carstairs and Didsbury until they moved to the

Crossroads district in 1940. The Currie family had been living on the farm as renters. At one time the land had belonged to the Rioux family.

Following a farm accident that took the life of James Kennedy, in February 1945, Mrs. Kennedy moved into the city of Red Deer with her children; Mary, Jim, Grace, Edward, Kathleen and Gloria.

The farm that they lived on makes up the greater part of what is now Normandeau subdivision of Red Deer city. A grandson, Richard Metzger, has a house in this subdivision.

Kooiman, John and Agnes

The Kooiman's came to live on their acreage (10 acres more or less) in 1953. Located east of the Calgary and Edmonton Trail, three-quarters of a mile north of the No. 11 highway, it is part of the NW ¼ of 4-39-27-W4th.

The place was bought from Mr. Vickers, who was a painter. The Kooimans, John and Agnes, were married in 1948, they came from the Netherlands in 1949 as a young couple. They were employed in Tilley, near Brooks, Alberta, where their two oldest children were born: Alice in 1950 and Evelyn in 1952. In 1953, they made the move to the Red Deer district. In 1954, five years after their emigration, Mr. Kooiman, a gardener by trade, struck out on his own. He went into the potato business and started Red Deer Landscaping and Lawn Service, he has been at it ever since.

Six more children were born to them, all in the Red Deer General Hospital: Peter, Paulene, Ruth, Miriam, Frank, and David. The oldest four attended classes at the Crossroads School until it closed in 1962. From then on the children were bussed to the consolidated schools in the city. The transition from



The Kooiman family, L. to R.: Frank, Pauline, Agnes, Miriam, Peter, David, Alice, John, Evelyn, Ruth.

the one-room country school to the big school went without a hitch; they were all well prepared by their teacher.

When the Kooimans bought the acreage there was a small house on the place, no running water, no electricity, no telephone. All these things came gradually. In 1959, they had out-grown the small house and moved a two-storey, stucco house on a new foundation. It was the original Lerouge' house, which was situated on the north bank of the Red Deer River, just west of the traffic bridge. It was in the way for Louis Janko's expanding automobile franchise.

Teachers in the Crossroads School before consolidation took place, were: Mrs. Jarvin, Mrs. Crossley, Mary Lawrence, and Mrs. Creelman.

All the Kooiman children have grown up here. Alice became a nurse, and is married to Ed Tiemstra and they live in Edmonton; as does Evelyn, who married Brian Martin. They both have children of their own. Evelyn and Brian are in the teaching profession. Son, Peter, is one of the local locksmiths. Paulene, who also teaches, lives with her husband, Don Kamps, in Calgary. Ruth has another year to go before she is an R.N. and Miriam is still studying. Frank recently completed high school and has to make his mark in life yet, as does Dave, the youngest. They all consider Red Deer their homeplace and they have fondest memories about the old Crossroads School and their classmates. It has been and still is a good place to live for all of us.

The Kooimans remember being told that the part of the Calgary and Edmonton Trail between Red Deer and Lacombe was one of the first stretches where asphalt was laid. They also recall that in 1955, there were so few snow plows in the country, that it took several days before snowed-in roads were plowed.

Krogman, Edward Carl and Alma

Edward Carl Krogman was born in Sommerset, Wisconsin, U.S.A. on December 16, 1882. As a young man, he first came west to Saskatchewan where he spent a couple of summers working in the Holdfast and Pennzance areas.

In 1912, he homesteaded in the Spennymore area, of southeastern Alberta. Spennymore, a small post office, went out of existence and Bindloss became their address.

On February 20, 1916, he married Alma Helena Martin, born a neighbor daughter in the home Wisconsin community on December 5, 1908. In the spring of 1916, they returned to the homestead.

Dad's first house had been a sod shack. In 1980, mounds of earth were still visible where the sod house and barn had stood. Dad had built a small



The Edward Krogman family, 1938, L. to R.: Edward, Douglas, Kenneth, Richard and Alma.

house and this was home to the Krogmans until 1928 when the house was remodeled.

Three sons were born while they lived on the prairie. Kenneth was born in 1917, Richard in 1921, and Douglas in 1930.

In 1937, after years of dried out crops and poor supply of water for the livestock, they sold and moved to the Spring Valley area east of Lacombe. The household goods, a few head of cows and machinery were loaded in two box cars, Dick well remembers leaving Bindloss station as he rode in one of the cars to care for the animals. Mother, Dad and Doug made the trip by car. Ken and a friends trailed fifteen head of horses across country. That trip took eight days.

Dick attended school at Joffre and completed high school at Lacombe, Doug attended school at Spring Valley. Ken worked for some of the neighboring farmers such as the Gingers and the Ellis' in the Lacombe area. In 1940 he started work at the Lethbridge Experimental Station.

The family lived at the farm in the Spring Valley from 1937 to 1944. They raised hogs and cattle and farmed the land with horses.

In the spring of 1944, the east half of 7-39-27-W4 was purchased in the Crossroads district. Both farms were cropped that year and the Spring Valley farm was sold. Dad and Dick operated the farm at Crossroads until Dad and Mother retired to Red Deer in the spring of 1952.

Mother was active in the Poplar Ridge W.I. and the Crossroads Community Club. An annual event that Mother and Dad looked forward to was the Prairie Peoples Picnic. A day when old neighbors and friends from the prairie gathered at Sylvan Lake. Several people from the Crossroads district attended this get-together, the Lorentsons, the Debolts, the Siros and the McNeils.

After retiring to Red Deer, Dad worked at odd handy man jobs in Red Deer. Mother was active in church and seniors groups. They both enjoyed being members of the Friendship Club.

Mother passed away in June of 1956 and Dad in February 1958.

After working at the Experimental Farm, Ken joined the R.C.A.F. in 1942 and served overseas. He was discharged in the fall of 1945. He returned to his work at Lethbridge, took schooling at Olds Agricultural College and U. of A., graduating as an Agronomist.

Ken married Dell Toley of Fort McLeod in June of 1948. They had four children, Lorne, Barton, Karla (deceased), and Lexie. They reside in Lethbridge. Ken retired from the Experimental Farm in 1980.

Doug attended Crossroads school and completed his high school in Red Deer. He lived with Mother and Dad in Red Deer and worked for Vern's Taxi for two years, joining Sorenson Buslines and continuing to work there for thirteen and a half years.

In September of 1958, he married Gerry Keufler of Lacombe. They moved to Calgary in 1966 where Doug was terminal manager for Greyhound bus Lines. In 1972, he was moved to Winnipeg where he was District Supervisor, and City Supervisor. In 1980, he returned to Edmonton as Greyhound District Supervisor. Doug and Gerry have three children, Kelly, Colleen and Jason, all of school age.

Dick married Mary Stewart of Poplar Ridge district, in April of 1952 and continued farming the home place.

In 1953, the rainfall was very heavy, making seeding and harvesting difficult. Our road was often almost impossible. That fall it was gravelled by the Municipality of Lacombe. At that time Highway #11 was the south boundry of the Lacombe Municipality.

Our oldest son, Stewart, was born in September,

1953. Karen was born in September, 1956 and Nancy in February of 1959. Alan arrived in March, 1963, giving us two boys and two girls. Stewart was the only one of our children to attend Crossroads school. Karen, Nancy and Alan all attended River Glen.

Many things stand out in our memories, such as the baseball games at Poplar Ridge, when both Dick and Doug played on that team. The terrible storm of 1951 and the storm in 1972 that left us without power for three days. Another incident that comes to mind was the morning our dog, Sandy, jumped over the barn door into a sleeping litter of piglets, during milking time. The scattering piglets frightened the cows and out came milker, pail and all. Sandy quickly made his exit back over the door. As in all such incidents what seemed so serious at the time, later seems humorous.

Dick worked at C.K.R.D. Television from 1963 to 1979. We enjoy curling, bowling, square dancing and working with the Poplar Ridge Community Association. Our twenty-fifth wedding anniversary and wedding receptions for both our daughters, Karen and Nancy, were held at the Poplar Ridge Community Center.

Stewart married Corrinne Lindhout in May, 1976. They lived at the farm for awhile. In 1978, they purchased a lot at Penhold and built a new home there. They have one daughter Kelsey Reanne, born November 11, 1980.

Karen married Dennis Costen in June, 1977. They reside in the Shady Nook district. Karen and Dennis have a son Derek Troy, also born November 11, 1980.

Nancy married Kevin Mooney in April, 1978. They reside in Edmonton where Kevin is attending University.

Alan is taking grade twelve at Lindsay Thurber Comprehensive High School and resides at home.

Lamont, John

Mr. Lamont was born in 1847, and lived in Saugeen Township, Bruce County, Ontario. When Mrs. Lamont's health failed, they moved to a drier climate at Sante Fe, New Mexico. This was where Mrs. Lamont passed away.

Mr. Lamont was attracted to the Red Deer area. He bought the S.W. 31-38-27-W4, from the Saskatchewan Land and Homestead Company. Some years later this land was sold to R. E. Woodsworth.

Mr. Lamont and his son, Jack, moved to the Poplar Ridge district where they farmed for a number of years.

In the Lamont family there were four boys, Jack, Duncan, David and Neil, and two daughters, Mrs.



The Dick Krogman family, L. to R.: Alan, Karen, Corinne (Lindhout), Stewart, Mary, Dick and Nancy.

Geen and Mrs. Arthur Paradis. Mrs. Paradis passed away in 1908 at 24 years.

Mr. Lamont passed away on July 8, 1920, at the age of 73.

Lancery, Charles

I, Charles Lancery, came to Canada with my parents in 1912. My father, Emile Lancery, was a blacksmith by trade in France. After a stay in Red Deer, my parents, in 1917, acquired a small 80 acre farm. In those days that was a large farm.



Log house on Lancery farm L. to R.: Antionette Hermary, Mrs. Maria Hermary, Gabriel Hermary, Angeline and Emily Lancery.

The farm belonged to a family by the name of Wilkinson. The house, constructed of logs squared off with an axe, we presume, was built by the Wilkinson family. I remember the farm as being situated close to the Indian School. The livestock, we had, comprised of two horses, two pork, six dairy cows and some chickens. We just about raised everything we ate on the farm. After some years, my father did blacksmith work at Nordegg.

As a young boy, I went to school at the Convent in Red Deer. The Sisters of Wisdom were teaching most of the French children that lived in the area in those days.

Our first neighbors were a family that also came from France, their name was Wiart. The Wiart family now lives at Castor, Alberta. We also knew the late Mr. and Mrs. Emile Hermary.

I had an uncle by the name of Lucien Lancery, better known as Lou. He worked for Mr. and Mrs. Lucien Reveyrand for 27 years. After all these years, he made his home with Mr. Eugene Bayer, a widower in the Poplar Ridge district. When Mr. Bayer sold his farm, Lou was to move again. In 1948 or 1949, he

made his home with Mr. Yves Duval, who stayed close by until Uncle Lou passed away in 1967.

My parents, after many years in Canada, went back to France to end their days. I, Charles, stayed on and now live in Montreal, P.Q.

Landry, Alphonse and Marie by the Landry family

The Alphonse Landrys lived on the N ½ 11-39-27-W4. Albert Reid was the first homesteader and Alphonse purchased this land from A. D. Bower. At that time there were 60 acres cultivated.

The Alphonse Landry family, consisting of the three boys, Ovide, Andrew, and Henry, Mrs. Marie Landry, and Alphonse's mother, Mrs. Justine Landry, came from Caraquet, New Brunswick, in 1919. Alphonse came west in the fall of 1918. Two more boys, Lawrence and Peter, were born at Red Deer.

A brother of Alphonse, Frank Landry, was a C.P.R. telegraph agent at Red Deer. He advised them to come to Red Deer as there were good farms for the boys. The farms in New Brunswick were small and Alphonse loved the farm.

The family travelled by C.N.R. from Caraquet to Montreal and by C.P.R. to Calgary and to Red Deer. They went right to the farm when they arrived.

Close neighbors were the Reids, the Philips, Richardsons, Bradburys, Fletts, Flacks, Pomerleaus, Bob Murrays and the Norberts.

Horses were used in the earliest years with their first tractor being a 15-30 McCormick Deering. They also had a Model T Ford truck.



Alphonse and Marie Landry.

The Landry boys attended school at the Convent, Crossroads and Blackfalds in the 1920's and 1930's. They had to learn the English language. Their teachers were Sister Mary Cyrille, Miss Rose (Frizell), Mr. Gibson, Miss Bell, Miss Mabel Maxwell (Nash), Miss Flo Gaetz (Stone), Mr. Earl Ansley, and Mr. Eric Hale. They enjoyed school picnics, the Christmas concerts and family social evenings.

They cleared and cultivated the land and always milked cows. Selling cream and milk to the Condensary. They liked to ride horses. Henry remembers riding Mr. Ferguson's steers west of Blackfalds and wild horses for thrills and spills at Pomerleau's. Henry also won prizes as a runner.



Landry family, L. to R.: Ovide, Henry, Lawrence, Peter and Andrew, 1980.

The oldest boy, Ovide, farmed the E ½-14 from 1934-1962. He married Jean MacNicol in 1938. In 1946, he bought the N.E. ¼-14. They have one son, Kenneth Landry, Alphonse and Marie of Edmonton. He has a B.A. in teaching and is a substitute broadcaster. A daughter, Vienne and family live in Red Deer.

Andrew married Kay Innis in 1938. His children are Raymond (now deceased), Sheila and Pauline. They live in Calgary. Andrew was remarried, his second wife's name was Bea.

Henry married Marie Louise Hermay in August, 1948. Their children are, Charles living in Clive, Paul of Blackfalds, Annette of Edmonton, and Jeanette of Red Deer. Henry was Catholic Youth Organizer in 1947, Director of the Sacred Heart Credit Union 1948-49, Crossroads Separate School Secretary from 1953 to 1972 and Montford Home and School President.

Lawrence married Helen Peltier and they have three children, Henry, Rene and Irene. They live in Vancouver.

Peter is a dispatcher with the C.P.R. at Union Station in Toronto. He married Anne Penettes in 1954. Peter and Anne have five children; Robert, Ivan, Raymond, Peter and Sharon. Peter has lived in Toronto since 1953.

Three sons of the Alphonse Landry family joined the forces in World War Two, they were; Andrew, Henry and Lawrence. Andrew and Henry served overseas.

Ovide, Andrew and Henry are now retired. They still often think of the old farm, the wheat fields, cattle, horses and the natural beauty of the land, now taken over by the Oil Companies and Big Industries.

Latam, Benson and Ena

Benson and his wife, Ena, made their home on the S.E. 35-38-28-W4. They had four children in their family; Myrone Lorne, John Melvin, Oliver Winston, and Emily Doris.

Lorne married Irene Peterson on November 15, 1945. He spent six years in the services in World War Two. Irene and Lorne had three daughters, Wanda Lynn, Karen Marie and Lorna Irene. Lorne passed away on November 9, 1974.

Mel married Marjory Gehrke on April 15, 1936. He passed away on March 15, 1972.

Winston (Pat), married Flora Poteet on August 15, 1935. Flo and Pat had two children, Winifred Irene and Daryl Charles. Flo passed away on November 6, 1980.

Doris married Alan Hall. Alan passed away several years later.

Benson passed away on May 10, 1958, and Ena followed on October 19, 1979.

Lehman, Les and Gloria

After spending many years living in various communities while Les worked on the oil rigs, Les and Gloria Lehman moved to Red Deer in 1961. They bought some land from John McBeth in 1962 and began the development of Les' Trailer Park. By 1963, 28 lots had been developed and were occupied. The remaining 48 lots were developed in 1968 and 1969, bringing the total to 76.

In addition to the trailer park, Les also operated Les' Ditching, doing backhoe work for both AGT and the City of Red Deer. He also did numerous small jobs, including welding and repair jobs for neighbours and friends.

Les and Gloria had three girls — Charlotte, Yvonne and Gail. They all took their early education at River Glen School. Charlotte and Yvonne completed their high school at Lindsay Thurber Comprehensive High School, while Gail finished her



Les' Trailer Park.

education in Millet School and Wetaskiwin High School following the family's move to Millet.

The family attended Bethany Baptist Church and was actively involved in church activities, with leadership in Pioneer Girls being the bulk of their involvement.

In 1974, the Trailer Park was sold. Gloria's parents were retiring to Wetaskiwin, so Les and Gloria bought their farm and moved to the Millet area.

Their three daughters have all married and all live within thirty miles of the Lehman farm. Charlotte married Neil Strohschein. They have one daughter



The Lehman family, L. to R.: Gail, Yvonne, Leo, Gloria and Charlotte.

Darla. Yvonne married Lorne Ertman. Their daughter is Jeannine. Gail married Peter Snellen in June, 1980.

Though not now living in the community, Les and Gloria and their family still have many fond memories of their years in Red Deer and of the many friends they met during their years there.

Linn, David (Red Deer and District Archives)

David Linn was born in Campbellford, Ontario, in 1844. He was married in Peterborough County, Ontario, in 1868.

In 1893, he came to the Crossroads district with his wife and family, and homesteaded the S.E. 36-38-28-W4.

His son, David H. Linn, homesteaded the S.E. 6-39-27-W4. Another son, Hugh, obtained the N.E. of 25-38-28-W4, the adjacent quarter to the south of his father's. A third son, Oiver, came west in 1901 and farmed the S.W. 36-38-28, land that had been homesteaded by W. H. Hart. Oliver farmed this land until 1911 when he moved to Delburne. His father took over this quarter and continued farming the south half of 36 until his retirement.

In 1913, Samuel Blakely purchased his land, Mr. and Mrs. Linn moved to Red Deer. Mrs. Linn passed away in 1923, at the age of 73, and Mr. Linn died in 1928 at 84 years.

David H. Linn at the time of his father's passing was living at Wembly, Alberta. His land was purchased by Henry Federer in 1918. Inman Lorentson buying it when Mr. Federer retired in 1940. The Lorentsons farmed it until it was sold and became Valleyview Subdivision, now known as Linn Valley subdivision.

Hugh Linn sold his land and moved to Penticton, B.C. There were also two daughters in the David Linn family, who were at the time of his passing, Mrs. John Mosley of Calgary and Mrs. H. H. Drake of Penticton.

Linton, William and Mima

William Plenderleith Linton was born in Leith (Edinburgh), Scotland in 1879. He emigrated to Australia (date unknown) where he met and later married Mima Budge on June 24th, 1918.



Mina Linton, Margaret Anderson (niece), Mrs. Margaret (Alex) Anderson (sister), William Linton, Mrs. Linton Sr. and Mrs. Chrissie Pooley (sister).

They came to Canada in the early 1920's, settling first in Calgary where Mr. Linton's mother, two sisters and brothers-in-law were then living.

In the early 1930's (possibly 1933 or 1934) they moved to the Red Deer district, settling in the Crossroads area, in a two room log cabin on the old Edmonton Trail. There they resided until their deaths — Mrs. Linton in 1953 and Mr. Linton in 1956.

They had no children, but Mr. Linton had two nephews and a niece — children of Mr. and Mrs. Alex Anderson of Drumheller, and later Sylvan Lake.

The oldest nephew, Weston with his wife and three children resided in Red Deer from 1945 until his death in 1976.

Thomas (unmarried) played National League hockey in his early days. He died in 1971.

Niece Margaret (Mrs. Leslie Longmate) resides in Grande Prairie with husband and family.

Brother-in-law, Alex Anderson resides in Red Deer Nursing Home — a chipper 101 years of age.

Longacre, Lewis and Cleo by Cleo Longacre

I was born in Taber, Alberta, and Lewis was born in Retlaw, Alberta. We were married in 1933, and

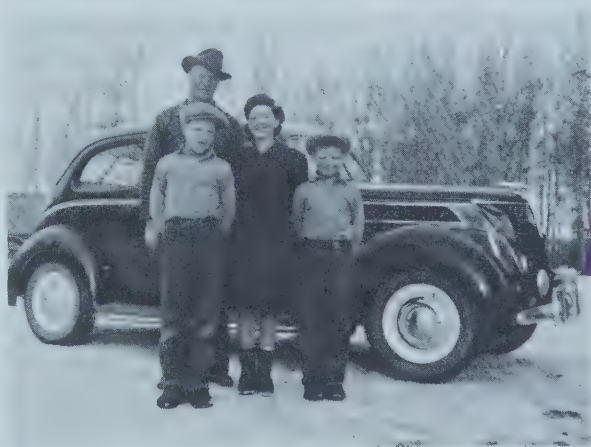
went farming in the Vauxhall area of southern Alberta. Times were very hard at that time, better known as the "Hungry Thirties". We had to struggle along with everyone else to make a living, and as we were on an irrigation, it was very hard work and we never seemed to be getting ahead.

In 1944, we came to Red Deer to visit friends and relatives. We were impressed with this area and began to think about trying to make a better living in a different place. After much consideration, we came to Red Deer and bought the former Mike Davis farm.

So in March of 1945, we loaded up our belongings, put the animals in a box car and our brother-in-law, Sam Bahler came along with them to see that they arrived here alright. Lewis and the children and I came in an old truck bringing with us most of our furniture. Deryl was nine and Garry was six years old.

When Sam arrived with the cows and horses, we unloaded them from the box car at the C.P.R. station and drove them right across the river on the ice. The population of Red Deer at that time was only about 7,000. The highway north was the old Sylvan Lake Trail, so it was not difficult to get them to go north on what is now Gaetz Avenue. The road was just a trail with trees hanging over on both sides. It was very cold that day, almost blizzard conditions making it more difficult. It was just before the second world war ended and part of the area north of the city was being used for a shooting range for the soldiers from the camp that was situated where the composite school is now.

We started milking a few cows and when the milk cheques started coming in it was a great treat to have a little money coming in every week. Later on we got a milk quota and started to sell fluid milk. Along with our farm, Lewis rented land from Ernie Pomerleau and Gordon Flack.



The Longacres, Garry, Cleo, Lewis and Deryl.

Our children attended school at Crossroads until 1952, then they went to River Glen in Red Deer.

For entertainment, we went to card parties at the Crossroads school. In 1949 Lewis, his sister, Flora and a fellow by the name of Alvan Wilson played for dances. We also enjoyed bowling in Red Deer, and I belonged to the Crossroads Community Club. We had good neighbors, such as, Hermarys, Nashes, Ahrens, Hazletts, Edgars and many more.

The new highway No. 2 was built in 1947, and we got the natural gas in 1947. We built a new barn in 1952, and a new house in 1956. The old, original house was moved to the Valleyview Subdivision near Red Deer.

We drilled a well near our new house and the water had gas in it. It was good water to use but you could light a bright flame from it. In 1968, due to the gas in the water, we had an explosion in our house that blew it right off the foundation. We were lucky to be alive as we were both in the house at the time of the explosion.

Our eldest son, Deryl, married Maxine Webb of Mirror, Alberta. They now have two daughters, Brenda and Barbara. He is an electrician, and lives in Red Deer. Our second son, Garry, married Laura McKenzie from Berwyn, Alberta. They have two boys, Ricky and Duncan. They live in Fort McMurray, Alberta. Garry is also an electrician.

We continued farming until 1973, when the city of Red Deer bought our land, however, we farmed until 1975. We moved into Red Deer and reside there yet.

Our house on the farm would be located on what is now 77th Street and Gaetz Avenue North.

Lorentson, Inman and Doris **by Doris Lorenston**

Inman and Doris Lorenston came to the Crossroads district in the spring of 1940. We bought the S.E. ¼ of 6-39-27-W4, which was owned by Mr. and Mrs. Henry Federer. The location being west on the Sylvan Lake road and five miles from down town Red Deer.

We had previously farmed near the small town of Binloss, Alberta. The years of drought caused us to make the decision to move elsewhere. We arrived at our new destination with three truck loads of livestock, machinery and household effects.

At this new location we were engaged mostly in mixed farming. A number of out buildings had to be replaced during the years. While living there, we appreciated the coming of electricity to the district, which was an added convenience. The paving of the highway was also a great improvement over the dusty gravel road.

We attended and enjoyed the district community gatherings. It was at Crossroads that our 25th wedding anniversary was celebrated, and we had happy memories of that occasion.

Our days of farming were brought to an end with the passing of my husband, Inman, in 1957. Later in 1958, I sold the farm to a Red Deer Development Company. The one time farm has now been transformed into a housing project with many fine homes. It is now known as Valleyview.

We lived in Crossroads eighteen years and I have now lived in Red Deer city for twenty-two years.

Losse, Fred Sr. and Ladora

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Losse came to the Crossroads district in 1895. They purchased the N.W. ¼ 4-39-27-W4, from E. Plumb and homesteaded the S.E. ¼ of the same section in 1898.

They had five children; Fred, Bill, Louise, Annie and Ernest. The three youngest, Louise, Annie and Ernest attended Crossroads school when it was opened. Their names appear on the first school register. Louise was fifteen, Annie was thirteen, and Ernest was ten years old.

Fred Jr. married a Miss Eggen of the Blackfalds area and they had one daughter, Ladora, named after her grandmother.



Fred Losse.

Louis married Joesph Martin; Ernest, more commonly known as Shortie, was a fantastic fiddler and played for many of the house parties that were held in the early days. He married Miss Soderberg of Red Deer.

Mrs. Fred Losse is said to have died when blood poisoning got into a cut in her finger. She passed away in 1910.

Mayberry, Wilton and Clara **by Clara Mayberry**

On July 20th, 1949, Wilton and Clara Mayberry purchased 2-11 Service Station from Herb Gilbert. It

is located at the junction of Highway 2 and Highway 11, three miles north of Red Deer.

In 1955, we built a new Station and Trailer Park, which we operated until May 1, 1972, at which time we sold to Roy Robinson. We then retired to Red Deer.

We have one daughter, Irene, who married Derald Pederson and they live at Eckville. They have three children. In 1953, we adopted Frances, who married Ron Cork. They have three children and presently live at Torrington.

McBlane, Alexander and Isabella (Red Deer and District Archives)

Alexander McBlane was born in Ayr, Scotland, the eldest son of Quentin and Mary (Strathdee) McBlane, December 15, 1843.

He married Isabella McLean, who was born August 20, 1850, in Perth County. She was the second daughter of John and Janet (McDougall) McLean. Alexander and Isabella were married on April 29, 1870.

In 1890, he moved to B.C., his wife and family followed in a short time. They moved to Red Deer in 1895, taking up a homestead on the S.E. 28-38-27-W4. The house he built there, is still standing. His youngest daughter still lives there.

There were no fences in those days and the cattle roamed for long distances between the Red Deer and Blindman Rivers. When the land was taken up and fenced Mr. McBlane moved his cattle to a ranch near Trochu, where his son, James, worked. Mr. McBlane sold his range cattle when the rancher at Tochu sold his ranch, and moved to B.C.

The Panruckers, Phil and Bert, were their nearest neighbors, and although Mrs. McBlane had a large family of her own, she baked bread for them.

Mr. and Mrs. McBlane spent the following years farming and raising cattle with their son, Quentin, and the youngest son, Duncan, helping them.

In 1917, due to failing health, Mr. McBlane was advised by his doctor to take a trip to B.C. to see if it would be beneficial, but Mr. McBlane died while there, on December 1, 1917. Mrs. McBlane returned to her home at Red Deer where she passed away May 20, 1939.

The eldest son, Quentin, never left home and never married. He passed away on April 26, 1919, in his 44th year.

Mary married Thomas Lasseter and they lived on a farm near Delbourne for many years. They had six children; Isabella (died 1902), Ernest (died 1919), Ella, who married J. T. Blair of Delbourne, Laura, who married E. Sharrett of Red Deer, Clarence, who lived near Camrose; Dell, who married A. Blair of

Calgary; Janet married Anthony Bayers, a farmer near Leduc. Isabelle married Wesley McIntyre and lived in B.C. Alexander McBlane farmed in the Poplar Ridge area. His history is in that section of the book.

John became a blacksmith at Bowden, where he married Sadie Gilgan. They had four children; Ruth (deceased), Betty, Allan and Kenneth.

James never married, he served in the First World War, in the navy. Alan like his brother, James, never married and also served overseas in the first war, with the 31st Battalion.

Duncan, like his brother, Alexander, went to the Poplar Ridge district where that history appears.

Annie married Benjamin Hewson, who farmed in the Shady Nook district for many years. They had three children; Freda, Sidney and Leslie. Freda married John Burns, and after his passing married H. Herder of Calgary. Sidney married Dell Smith of Valley Centre. Leslie married Frances Wilson of Consort.

Catharine married Lester McIlroy of Hillsdown, they had one son, Joseph.

Elizabeth married Ernest Roy. She still resides in the house on the original homestead. See the Ernest Roy history.

McKinnon, Ross and Mary by Mary Alice McKinnon

Ross W. McKinnon and his wife, the former Mary Alice Shuler, moved to the Crossroads district from the Rimbey area in 1948. Originally from the Rimbey district, they had lived in Red Deer for one year before purchasing an acreage from Billy Linton, in the area which is now Glendale Park Estates.

The three oldest children, Walter, Delvyn and Terry attended school at Crossroads, first in the old school building and then in the new one, until with the annexation of their home by the City of Red Deer, it was necessary for them to attend the River Glen school. The youngest, Sharon, did not attend the Crossroads school.

Ross was employed by the Central Alberta Dairy Pool for thirty-two years, until his retirement. Mary Alice was a member of the Crossroads Ladies' Club for several years. They sold the acreage and moved into the city in 1964, where they still reside.

Walter, the oldest son, now lives in Toronto, having been in radio, television and newspaper work since graduation from school. This work has taken him from Alberta, to British Columbia, Ontario and Quebec.

Delvyn, the second son, now lives in Innisfail as manager of a lumber and service centre. He had

previously lived in B.C., and in Olds and Acme, both in Alberta.

The third son, Terry, is in Port Hardy, B.C. in the auto, marine, and electrical supply business. He had lived in Kelowna, Salmon Arm, Cranbrook, and Duncan, all in B.C., before starting business in Port Hardy.

Sharon McKinnon is now Mrs. Dave Womack. Her family resides in Red Deer, after having lived in Dawson Creek, B.C. and Edmonton and Calgary.

McKinnon, Walter and Claire, Jim and Irma

by Mary Alice McKinnon

James and Walter McKinnon, twin brothers bought an acreage in the northwest corner of the quarter section previously owned by William Linton soon after their return from five and one-half years service in the second world war. Together with their wives they started a mink ranch in 1946.

Mrs. Walter McKinnon was the former Claire Shuler, daughter of Robert and Ethel Shuler. Mrs. Jim McKinnon was the former Irma Shuler, a sister of Claire and of Mary Alice who is Mrs. Ross McKinnon.

Their mink farm was in the Crossroads district until annexation of the area by the City of Red Deer. After discontinuing fur ranching, both families moved closer into the city centre.

Jim McKinnon was Assistant City Engineer for some time before moving to British Columbia where he still resides.

Walter McKinnon bought another acreage, this time on the east side of the same quarter section, where he had a sheet metal business until his death in 1970 as the result of a glider crash near Penhold. He is buried in the Altoreste Cemetery. His widow, Claire, and his family Donna Marie, Ron, and Heather continued to live there until the place was purchased by a development company to become part of what is now Glendale Park Estates. Claire McKinnon now lives in Red Deer. Donna Marie (Mrs. R. Eales), Heather (Mrs. H. Middleton), and Ron reside in Calgary.

Miller, Leon and Myrtle **by Myrtle Miller**

Leon and Myrtle Miller, and their two children, Ervin, twelve years and Evelyn, six years, came to the Blindman Valley in 1942.

Having bought land on both sides of the Blindman River, we moved to the N.W. 15-39-27-W4, on April 14. We established "Miller's Vegetable Market Gardens" which we operated for twenty-six years with never a crop loss or failure.

There were some very dry seasons and Leon

purchased an irrigation outfit. This was a combination motor and pump mounted on a truck, with many twenty foot lengths of pipe. It was all portable. The pipes were of heavy galvanized metal. This required an enormous amount of work when permits for water rights and a government survey had to be obtained to pump water from the river. This permit had to be renewed annually.

We grew all vegetables except pumpkins and melons. During the years 1942 to 1947, our markets were Nordegg coal mines, Federal staff at the Penhold Airport and the Military Training Camp at Red Deer.



Leon Miller and granddaughters in Miller's Market Garden.

Many truck loads of vegetables went to the prairies in the dry years, the wholesale houses and the local public within a forty-five mile radius. People came and got whatever they required.

We had excellent crops of strawberries, but discontinued them because of the work involved.

Many people were employed during the harvest



Myrtle Miller with Market Garden Truck.

seasons. For nine years these people were boarded in our home as people did not carry lunches as they do today.

Vegetable and potato growing and harvesting is the hardest kind of work and I often wished we were farming or doing something different. Leon and I often worked to the point of exhaustion. Loading these big truck loads, all by hand was a big job.



Sylvan Lake Trail spring break-up, 1940.

There were not that many gravelled roads in the country between 1942 and 1953. I would go with Leon on one load annually to Nordegg, that was my Vacation. On one such trip it had rained so much west of Rocky Mountain House, that the corduroys in the mud holes were floating. The truck got hopelessly stuck, and we had to unload the truck three times. We reloaded it twice, the third time we covered the pile of potatoes and vegetables on the ground with canvas and left it. We drove on into Nordegg completely exhausted.

I am sure our hardships and struggles of the pioneering days on the homestead helped us both to develop a determination to finish whatever we planned or attempted to do.

There were no buildings on the land we bought in the Blindman Valley. In the summer of 1942, I dug a big cellar with a dirt slip and a team of horses. The children were in school at Blackfalds and when we got the truck loaded and Leon would go away for the week to sell, I would resume the digging.

That first winter our house had no upper rooms or roof, only the upstairs floor covered with tar paper and strips nailed on. So I had to sweep off the snow every time it came, to prevent dripping water coming in upon us.

The cellar was filled with vegetables and potatoes, and half the house was partitioned off and was filled with fine cabbages. By early spring these things were all sold and we began building again, to put on the bedroom walls and roof.

Leon later dug a large root-house into the hillside across the river near the big garden.

Leon W. Miller was born April 27, 1892 and came from eastern Pennsylvanina in 1912 to Bashaw, Alberta. He and his father established a vegetable market garden. In the fall of 1912, Leon took up homestead land at Rife, Alberta, near Moose Lake. He worked in the winters clearing land and worked out in the summers to get money for breaking land and fencing. He also exchanged work with other homesteaders who were longer established and owned some equipment. Leon bought six horses and broke some land. When he went away to work, his horses and some cattle, his stoves and barbwire from the fences were stolen. He never got them back. It had been a nine year struggle and with this discouraging setback, Leon decided to go another way.

He bought another team of horses and a fishing outfit, and began commercial fishing. There were many lakes with plentiful fish, and Leon fished four years in the Cold Lake region. In 1926, he sold his homestead and moved to Lac La Biche, to continue his fishing operations. There he met Myrtle Erickson and they were married on November 16, 1927. Leon no longer used horses, he had enlarged the fishing outfit and added a one-ton Ford truck. He employed three to five men each session. The fishing seasons were from May 15 to September 15, and December 1 to March 31.

In winter operations, many pairs of woolen mitts were required for the crew each day, and in 1927 and 1928, I knit 40 pair of mitts and some socks on an Auto-Knitter machine.

We boarded our fishing crew. I baked bread twice a week making 28 loaves, and there were many other chores. I was kept busy all day, sawing and splitting fire wood, carrying water and washing fishing mitts, and helping with the nets.

When the season closed, the crew were paid off and Leon and I would wash and spread all the nets on drying racks. They were then boxed and stored till the next season. We usually used about 40 nets. There was a lot of heavy work involved in this business too. We continued to fish until 1935, when Leon sold his outfit as the lakes were badly depleted now.

The depression had driven everyone in that country to fish or trap. Self employment was the only way to survive. In 1934, we bought a home on an acreage by Edmonton and Leon bought a two-ton truck and began buying and selling fish from Lac La Biche to Calgary and to Coronation. It was a good business, but a cold one in winter. Leon was away from home two weeks to sell each load. I sold fish at our home, and looked after the laying hens, my cow, a big garden and our children.

Our son, Ervin, was born September 24, 1929 and our daughter, Evelyn, on February 29, 1936. Ervin attended West Jasper Place school, Nelson School in Lacombe, and went to school in Blackfalds for five years. He left school to take the job of crusherman at the Blackfalds gravel pit. In 1951, Ervin worked for Mannix Construction at Peace River, operating the weigh scales, when the new highway was being built to Grimshaw, Smoky River and Grand Prairie. In 1952, he hauled gravel on highway construction at Vermillion. Ervin and John Pomerleau formed a partnership in the spring of 1953. They purchased and drove back two new General Motors trucks from the Oshawa factory and hauled construction gravel in many places for the next five years. Ervin passed away in March, 1956, before his 27th birthday.

Evelyn attended school in Blackfalds, doing her nine grades in eight years. She took high school at the Composite in Red Deer and as there were no school buses then it was my responsibility to drive her the seven miles in the summer. In the winter she boarded in the dormitory. She enjoyed all her classes and graduated two weeks after her 17th birthday. After graduation she went with two girl friends to Banff, where they were employed at motor hotels in the summer and the hospital in the winter. In January, 1955, she married Clarence (Mickey) Gilmar, who was employed by the Banff warden service for many years.



Jayne Gilmar on famous horse, Rex.

They have three daughters, Jayne born July 6, 1956, graduated from Lacombe High School in 1974. Jayne and her horse, Rex, became famous when her trainers took them to the North American Overland Competitions. This was a three mile Steeplechase at Jokers Hill, Ontario. A gruelling competition of

jumps and hurdles in which Jayne and Rex placed second. Jayne went to Dorset England where she was a teacher-matron at the famous "Child Okeford" Girls Equestrian School for a period of ten months. There were over 300 girls at this school.

Evelyn's second daughter, Judy, was born August 29, 1957. She is now living on Vancouver Island where she has a hair-dressing shop. The youngest daughter, Joanne, was born September 6, 1960, and she is completing her schooling in Calgary.

Evelyn and Mickey were at the Ya Ha Tinda Ranch from 1958 to 1965, where he was foreman. They then moved to an acreage at Blackfalds. They both worked at the Lacombe Research Station. Mickey passed away in November, 1976. Evelyn now resides in Banff.

In 1950, my father Steven Emil Erickson, came to live with Leon and I. He was in poor health at the time. He was born on January 11, 1874 in Dalby, Iowa. He had had a hard life, losing his mother when he was nine and his father when he was 17. In 1913, he came to Vegreville, Alberta, where he homesteaded. He loaded three boxcars and shipped to Vegreville, 114 miles by wagon trail to the homestead. He met the coach when Mother, the three little boys, my sister and I, arrived in Vegreville on August 4, 1914. That was the day the First World War was declared. We went on to the homestead where we established a new home, put up log buildings, cleared and broke land and made a farm out of it. We built our own trails and roads with bridges and corduroy. Father bought a steam engine and threshing outfit, this being the first steam engine into the Frog Lake area in 1916. That engine powered our flour mill, did the wood sawing, broke land and threshed crops. I being the oldest in the family was responsible for the water supply, by team and tank wagon. They called me "The Tankee".

Father was with us for a while, and passed away when he was almost 81, on October 19, 1954.

Milne, Alexander and Lily

Alex Milne was born at Craigallachie, Scotland, in 1908. At the age of nineteen years he immigrated to eastern Canada, remaining there for three years, before coming west to Red Deer in 1912. Being a hard and willing worker, Alex readily found employment doing farm work for the next few years.

In 1922, he married Lily Hart, and they farmed in the Balmoral district, east of Red Deer for four years. They then moved to a farm west of Red Deer, in the Crossroads district, known at that time as the Woodsworth place. The fall of 1927 brought changes that were to be long lasting. Mr. and Mrs. Fred Hart



Alex and Lily Milne.

(Lily's parents) moved to town, and Alex and Lily took over the farm. They worked hard and diligently, and in the ensuing years they purchased the N.W. 36-38-28-W4. They continued to live on the original quarter until 1950, when they took up residence on the N.W. ¼ of section 36.

Alex and Lily enjoyed seeing a job well done, their work included raising some of the most prized purebred livestock in the country. These included



Alex Milne and son, Bill after fishing trip.



Aerial photo of Milne farm.

Clydesdale horses and later Aberdeen Angus cattle on a small scale. Lily also showed a great deal of talent with her indoor and outdoor plants.

In spare time Alex enjoyed nothing more than to relax along a trout stream, thus he was, with his son Bill, on June 16th, 1963, when he suffered a fatal heart attack, passing away at the age of 73 years.

Alex and Lily Milne had three children, Janet (Sim), Margaret (Currie) and William. Bill now farms the original homestead, and his mother still resides on the N.W. ¼ at the time of writing.

Milne, William F. and Jean

William, only son of Alex and Lily Milne, was born in Red Deer and has lived all his life in the Crossroads district. Upon completion of his schooling, Bill accepted a position with the C.P.R. where he worked for several years.



Bill and Jean Milne and granddaughter, Vickie Dahl.

It was during this time he met and married Jean Duncan from Eckville and they took up residence on the farm at N.E. 36-38-28-W4. Bill and Jean have two children, Linda and Peter, both of whom played an active part in the farm operation during their growing up years. The family continued to be interested in the purebred-registered, Aberdeen Angus herd that Bill and his father established in 1947. With dedication and hard work the herd was built up to the point where "Clunymore Angus" were exported to various countries of the world including Scotland, the homeland of the breed. This shipment to Scotland in 1973 was an occasion to celebrate as it was only the second time in Canadian history that Angus cattle had been shipped back to that country. Bill and Jean attended the "World Angus Forum" held at Aviemore, Scotland in 1976 and were proud and thrilled to witness a descendant from one of their females, claim all the honors at a special show and sale staged for the event.



Linda and Peter Milne.

Linda Milne is married to Alan Dahl of Lousana, they have three children, Victoria, William and Bonnie Jean. Peter is farming with his father.

Milne, William and May

William Milne came to Red Deer shortly after his brother, Alex, came to the area. He married May Hart on April 24, 1912. May, the eldest daughter of Henry and Minnie Hart, was born at Minesville, New York, in December of 1890. She came west with her parents in 1893.

William and May farmed the S.W. of 7-39-27, for many years. They also purchased and farmed the Reed place which was later owned by Theodule Pomerleau.

William and May and their family of four sons and a daughter, moved to North Surrey, B.C. It was there that William passed away in June of 1948. May, also, passed away at North Surrey, in January of 1962 at 71 years.

Mullin, Guy and Lorraine

Guy Mullin came west to Olds, Alberta, from Boom Road, New Brunswick, in the spring of 1946, after his discharge from the Canadian Air Force. While in Olds, he met the former Lorraine Nichol. They were married in Red Deer on September 26, 1947.

Guy was employed at the F. M. Hayhoe Plumbing and Heating shop until 1959. He then moved to Ponoka, Alberta, to manage a sheet metal shop. In 1961, he returned to Hayhoses and Red Deer.

In 1965, he started his own business "Guy's

Sheet Metal", in which he is still owner and manager.

In October of 1969, he put in a bid on the Crossroads School, which was up for tender. Being the successful bidder, he and his family proceeded to make it their home.



Crossroads School as it was when purchased by Guy Mullin.

Over the past ten years there have been many marbles, ink bottle and glue bottles found while digging in the yard. It is believed that the rocks along the driveway were once the foundation for the original school, which was closer to the road. The present being built in 1949.



Mullin home today, 1980.

The fireplace in the Mullin rumpus room was made from the old brick chimney of the school. The patio table, being four feet by eight feet was in the school and may have been the teacher's desk.

Guy and Lorraine have three children, all born in Red Deer.

Sandra (Mrs. Sam Bahler Jr.) Sam farms in the Poplar Ridge area and Sandra teaches school in Red Deer. They have one son Bradley Roy Bahler.

Robert Mullin and his wife, Mary Lou (Hickey) Mullin live at the old airport in the Poplar Ridge

community. Robert is taking the Sheet Metal Trade and works with his father. Mary Lou works for the Alberta Transport Department. They have no children.

Gary Mullin and his wife, Kathy (Hougestol) Mullin live in Red Deer. Gary is finishing his R.I.A. accounting course and manages the office for his father.

Kathy is a registered nurse, but now has her hands full with two small children, Erin and Shea Mullin.

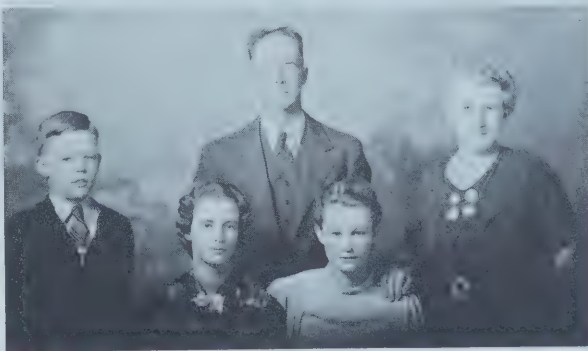
When the Mullin family moved to the school, Mr. Leonard owned the land surrounding the school, and Mr. Jim Murray farmed it. But since that time the land was sold to Mr. Rudy Deutsch and Associates. And Mr. Deutsch and his son, Allan, farm it.

Murray, Bob (R. J.) and Laura

Bob Murray was born on December 2, 1889, at Pictou, Nova Scotia. He lived there before the first world war and during this time he played in an army band.

In the early 1900's he moved to Lethbridge with the intention of running a farm, but instead ended up gas fitting at Fort McLeod, installing most of the original gas pipes in that town.

He married the former Laura Munro, in Lethbridge on February 26th, 1913 and in 1919 they moved to Red Deer where they purchased S.W. 10-39-27-W4.



The Murray family, standing: Jim, Bob, and Laura. Seated: Dorothy and Helen.

They had two daughters and a son. The oldest daughter, Dorothy, graduated from Nursing School in Billings, Montana, and married Kenneth Fowell, a schoolteacher in Great Falls, Montana. Dorothy passed away in 1979, in Canon City, Colorado. Helen also was a graduate of nursing in Billings and is married to Joe Dillard and they live in Tuscon, Arizona. Joe is a former airlines pilot. Dorothy had one

son and one daughter and Helen has one daughter and one grandson.

Laura passed away in 1968. Bob and Laura were both active in the Crossroads community. Laura was a Past Honored Royal Lady in the O.O.R.P.; an active member of the Eastern Star and the Knox Church Ladies' Group. Bob belonged to the Kenilworth Lodge #29 and the Red Deer Lions Club. He was also President of the U.G.G.'s local board and was for twenty years the President of the Red Deer Mutual Telephone Company. Bob is now retired but still resides on the family farm.

Murray, James R. and Mildred

Jim was born in Red Deer at Mrs. Simons' Nursing home in 1926. He attended school at Crossroads, St. Joseph's Convent and Red Deer High School, and upon graduating he spent the next two years attending Olds School of Agriculture, graduating from there in 1945. After finishing at Olds, he returned to the farm to work with his father.

In 1949, he was married to the former Mildred Sinclair of Red Deer. Jim was active for many years in the 78th Battery in Red Deer as well as being a Past President of the Red Deer Curling Club, and of the Red Deer Exhibition Association. He is a Past Master of Kenilworth Lodge #23 in Red Deer, Secretary-Treasurer of the Red Deer West Rural Electrification



Mildred and Jim Murray.

Association, a member of the Red Deer Elks Club and is an avid curler in Red Deer and Central Alberta.

Jim and Mildred have two children, both of whom attended the Crossroads school until its closing and then to town to River Glen. Linda is married to Bill Turley and they have two sons; Jamie is five and Lyle is two. Linda and Bill live in Red Deer. Sandy is a Family Practitioner and has a private practise in Red Deer. Sandy is married to the former Dorothy Swainson and they also have two sons, Fraser is three years old and Kolin is one year old. They are presently living in Red Deer but are planning to build a home on the farm in the near future. This will bring the fourth generation of Murrays to reside on S.W. 10-39-27-W4.

Nash, Arthur and Maria

Arthur Nash was born in London, England, on May 9th, 1856. In 1887, he married Maria Simmons, who was born on January 23rd, 1857, in Staplefield, Sussex.

Arthur and Maria Nash left England by boat for Canada, with their two sons, Vernon and Percy, and two daughters, Isobel and four month old Ena. Ena was the youngest passenger on that crossing.

They came to the S.W. ¼ of 4-39-27 in May of 1894. The log house they came to had just had the sod roof replaced with one of lumber and shingles. This was one of the first homes in the area with this kind of roof.

For the first few years Vernon and Percy walked to Red Deer to school. When Isobel was almost ten years old, Mr. Nash donated two acres for the building of a school. This was much to the disgust of the bachelors in the area who thought that a school would only raise their taxes. In 1899, the Crossroads district was established, and by 1901, school was being held.

All of the Nash children, Vernon, Percy, Isobel and Ena, all born in London, and Alice and Catherine, born at Red Deer, attended school at Crossroads.

Mr. Nash was Justice of the Peace for many years. He had one of the first Photo Studios in Red Deer and also owned a nursery business.

Mrs. Nash was well known throughout the district as she was mid-wife for many of the new arrivals. The last baby that Mrs. Nash was mid-wife for, was Grace Hart. By this time there were doctors in the area and she decided she had done her share in seeing that the pioneer babies had a good start in life.

After failing health, Mr. Nash passed away on August 23rd, 1924, at the age of 68. After his passing, Mrs. Nash resided with her son Percy until she suffered a stroke and passed away April 13th, 1932 at 75 years.

Isobel took her nurses training in Medicine Hat, receiving a Gold Medal in Surgery, In June of 1914. She nursed in Red Deer Memorial Hospital in 1916 and then moved to Revelstoke and then to New York City. From there she enlisted as a nursing sister and served overseas. She married Captain William Teed of New Castle, New Brunswick. They had three sons, William, Lionel and Stephen.

Ena married Bird Blakley, in 1921, in Paquet Hall, Calgary. They moved to the Shady Nook district where they farmed for many years and raised two sons, Jack and Manly. Mr. Blakley passed away in 1968 and Mrs. Blakley still resides on the farm that has been home for almost 60 years.

Alice took her nurses training in Medicine Hat, graduating with honors in 1919. She was in charge of the Isolation Hospital, and in 1931 she passed away after several bouts of contagious diseases, which she contacted during the course of her duties. She was given a civic funeral and is buried in Hillside Cemetery, Medicine Hat.

Cathrine also took her training as a nurse in the Medicine Hat Hospital. She married a wholesale grocer, Andrew Lamb, on April 3rd, 1925. They had one son, James.

Vernon, the eldest son, moved to British Columbia where he operated a fruit farm. By his first marriage he had three children. He and his second wife, Mary, retired in Medicine Hat, where they both passed away.

Percy, the second son, had Miss Hettie Keast as his first teacher in the newly opened Crossroads School. For many years after he left school, he was employed by the survey parties and after the passing of his father, he took over the family farm.

On July 5th, 1930, he married Mabel Maxwell, who was born in Portage La Prairie, Manitoba, Miss Maxwell had been teaching at the Crossroads school for three years. She had received her normal school training in Saskatoon and Calgary, and taught at Vulcan, Delburne and Rowley.

After retiring from the farm, Mr. Nash worked for Calgary Brewing Company for nineteen years. In later years as a desk clerk in the Park Hotel. Mrs. Nash was persuaded to resume teaching when there became a shortage of teachers. She taught at Brookfield, near Joffre and Poplar Ridge for three years. She continued to teach for twenty-two years in the city of Red Deer and retired on June 30, 1967.

Percy and Mabel had two children, Grant and Shirley, both of them attended school at Crossroads. Grant married Marlene Northcott, they have two sons, David and Bruce, and a daughter, Leslie. They live in Edmonton. Shirley married Ronald Hill and

they have a daughter, Dorothy, and a son, Grant. They reside in Calgary.

Percy passed away on April 5th, 1969. Mabel still resides in Red Deer.

Neilson Family by Fred and Agnes Neilson

Four generations of the original Neilson family have lived on this land, (N.W. 6-39-27-W4), and this summer more than a dozen of the fifth generation have been visitors here.

The first Neilson to live on this land was Andrew Fish Neilson. He was born on March 3, 1861 in the Scotch block of Halton County, near Milton, Ontario. There are several families of Neilsons still living in that area, some of whom have come west to visit.

Andrew lived in Ontario with his widowed mother, two brothers and two sisters, until 1882, when he went west, not to Alberta, but to Killarney, Manitoba. He came well equipped, with a year's supply of food and a carload of purebred cattle. On November 18, 1889, he married Ruth Hannah Fisher. Ruth was born in London, England. Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Fisher, later moved to Poplar Ridge, and are the subject of a separate biography.

Two sons were born to Andrew and Ruth in Killarney, Frederick Andrew, and Arthur. Arthur died in 1894, and shortly after that the family moved to Great Falls. Andrew became foreman of the Rainbow copper and silver smelter. Two daughters were born there, Mary Agnes and Sarah Jean. In 1907 the family moved to Alberta, where they purchased N.W. 6-39-27-W4, from Fenton Billinghurst. They



The Neilsons taken about 1921, back row, L. to R.: Tom Fisher, Mary (Neilson) Hart, Walter Hart, Susan and Fred A. Neilson holding Walter, Ivan Neilson. Second row L. to R.: Andrew F. Neilson, Grandma Fisher, Jean (Neilson) Welliver, Grandpa Fisher, Ruth Neilson. Front row: Fred, Helen and Roger.

farmed for two years, then returned to Great Falls for another two years, and then came back to Crossroads to stay.

Andrew and his son Fred, hauled cordwood for the Western General Electric power plant in 1911, 1912, and 1913. Fred kept a diary for many years, and the price paid for the cordwood appeared to run about \$2.25 a cord. Their days were filled with endless hours of chopping and sawing wood.

Andrew served as secretary-treasurer of the Crossroads School District for nine years. He was a member of the UFA provincially, and a Liberal, federally. He was a member of the Masonic Order, and his wife Ruth, a member of the Eastern Star. Andrew was very fond of his family, especially his grandchildren. His grandson, Fred, has often said, "If one of us had committed murder, Grandpa would have said it was the other fellow's fault."

When Andrew retired from farming, he and his wife lived in Red Deer, but eventually came back to the farm. He died September 17, 1937. Ruth stayed on the farm until shortly before her death in Red Deer on October 4, 1950.



Mr. Hammeron, Fred Neilson, Mr. Sands (Crossroads school-teacher), Andrew Neilson holding Helen and Mrs. Andrew Neilson holding Roger. Seated, Mrs. Sands, Mrs. Fred Neilson, Bertha Hart and Mary Hart.

Mary Agnes Neilson, born September 17, 1895, married Walter A. Hart of the Crossroads district June 30, 1915. They lived in Crossroads and Poplar Ridge districts and had no children. Mrs. Hart died in 1963. (See Walter Hart biography).

Sarah Jean Neilson, born November 17, 1902, worked as a telephone operator until her marriage to Kay M. Welliver on May 8, 1925. Kay, the son of Mr. and Mrs. R. B. Welliver of Red Deer, worked at Trail, B.C., and later went to work for the Canadian

Pacific Railroad, becoming an engineer. Since his retirement Kay has been operating the steam engine at Heritage Park in Calgary. The Wellivers have two sons, Andrew Barclay, born June 8, 1928, and Douglas Kay, born October 7, 1929.

Frederick Andrew, born December 26, 1889, received his elementary and high school education in Great Falls. He then went to work at the Rainbow Dam. He accompanied his parents to Alberta in 1907. Here he met and married Susan May Rogers. They were married at Maizie's family home in Poplar Ridge, September 28, 1910. Her family farm is now owned by the Malinic family, and a portion of the old Rogers house is still standing. (See Malinic biography). (The William Rogers family is the subject of a separate biography.) Fred and Maizie spent a year in Great Falls shortly after their marriage, before returning to Alberta.

In his diary, Fred kept track of his salary and expenses. For example, in March, 1910, working at the smelter, he worked ten hours a day for each of the thirty-one days, for the magnificent sum of \$172.59. Of course, at the same time, the cost of overalls and gloves was \$2.25, and board was \$25 a month. This was the winter before his marriage. By February, 1911, he was down to an eight-hour day. The purchases had changed too. With the advent of a wife, entries appear like this one: Silk, lace, chiffon, linen, cord, tassels — a total of \$11.02.

Fred and Maizie returned to Alberta in 1911, and purchased in 1912, the S.E. 12-39-28-W4 from an Englishman named A. E. Pollard. This land is in the Poplar Ridge district, presently owned by Wm. Edgar, except for a portion now owned by Jim and Lynn Newnham. (See separate biographies).

During their ten-year stay on this farm, the Neilsons were busy farmers — clearing and breaking their land, raising livestock, and cutting wood for themselves as well as for the power company. They were busy also raising their four children: Helen Elizabeth, born July 4, 1911; Roger Andrew, born November 25, 1912; Frederick William born April 20, 1916, and Walter Ivan, born September 17, 1919. Fred served as secretary-treasurer of the Poplar Ridge school, chairman of the Poplar Ridge Hall Board, and also clerked many auction sales for Arthur Rogers, auctioneer. Maizie was a life-long member of the Women's Institute, and she and her husband were constantly busy in the neighborhood.

In 1922, when his father retired, Fred took over the home farm in Crossroads, where he and Maizie lived until the former's death in November, 1949. Fred served the Crossroads school as secretary-treasurer for many years. He was active in the bond drives in World War II. Among their many friends

were Fred and Marth Turnbull of Red Deer, who came to the farm at least once a week throughout the years, and who continued to visit there until their deaths. The four spent many happy hours playing contract bridge on Wednesday nights.

Helen became a teacher, teaching at Carritt and at Poplar Ridge for several years. In 1940 she married R. M. Farewell of Blackfalds, where she and her husband still farm. They have three children: Russell, farming at home; Sue, now Mrs. Ken Bissoon-datt of Edmonton, who has two sons, Rob and Dana; and Linda, now Mrs. Dennis Jaffray, who, with her husband, now teaches at Fort McMurray and who has three children, Mark, Lori, and Tim.

Roger (usually called Rod) spent many years in the dairy business, and at the time of his death in 1967 was engineer at the Lacombe hospital. He was married to Edna Bourke of Springwater, Saskatchewan. They have three sons: Garnet in Whitecourt, Wayne in Victoria, and Bryan in Calgary, and many grandchildren.

Walter went into the furniture business, owning his own store, first in Taber, and then in Vernon. He was also a Mason like his grandfather. He was married to the former Marie Lund of Red Deer. They had four children: Shala, now Mrs. David Grindlay, who teaches for the Red Deer County, and is the mother of three children; Lou, who worked with his parents in the furniture business until his death in a hang-gliding accident in 1977; Lou has four children; Nola, now Mrs. Ron Stone, mother of two; and Belva, now Mrs. Steve Underwood, living in California. Walt was killed in an airplane crash in 1969. His wife Marie continues to operate their business. She is now married to Stuart Fleming of Vernon.

Fred joined the R.C.A.F. in 1941, and served until July, 1946. He was married August 23, 1942 to Agnes Farewell, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. S. H. Farewell of Blackfalds. In August, 1946, Fred and Agnes moved to the family farm, where they still live.

In 1953, Fred's mother married Sam Blakley (see separate biography) and moved to Red Deer, where she lived until her death in 1977. She enjoyed her family and friends and continued to do fine needlework, such as petitpoint, and kept up her reputation as a fabulous cook.

When his mother moved to town, Fred bought the farm, becoming the third generation owner. He has worked for many years at the Canadian Forces Base, Penhold. He was president of Red Deer Minor Baseball during the years when his sons played baseball. Agnes has taught school for many years, chiefly at River Glen, for the Red Deer County.

Fred and Agnes have two sons, who make up the fourth generation of Neilsons on this farm.

Keith Erick Neilson was born June 29, 1948. He received his schooling at Crossroads, then River Glen, and LTCHS. After spending a year at Red Deer College, he went to the University of Alberta, where he received a B.Sc., a B.A., and an M.A. in history. He then went to Cambridge, England, where he received his Ph.D. During his school years, he played baseball and played for and helped coach the Red Deer Packers football team. In 1971 he married Joan Grinde, daughter of George and Mary Grinde of Bluffton. Joan has a B.Sc. in home economics (U of A) and is a teacher. They have two children: Anne, born in 1977, and David, born in 1978. Keith is presently employed at the Royal Military College in Kingston, Ontario.

Walter John was born January 4, 1951. He, too, started school in the old Crossroads country school, going from there to River Glen and LTCHS. An ardent sportsman, Walt played minor football, basketball and baseball, both in high school and for the Packers. He graduated from U of A with a B.Sc. and an M.Sc. in computer science. In 1973 he married Myrna Fuder, daughter of Earl and Urma Fuder of College Park, Red Deer. Myrna has a B.A. (U of A) and is a teacher as well, now working toward a master's degree. Walt and Myrna spent two years in Ghana, both teaching, before settling in Edmonton, where Walt is with the Alberta Research Council. They have one son, Eric, born in 1979.

Anne, David, and Eric are members of the fifth generation to spend time here. Many of Fred and Maizie's other grandchildren come to visit as well, bringing their children to see the 'old home.' As Alberta is still a young land, seventy-three years of continuous living by one family on one farm is a fair achievement. Only the spruce trees by the house are older, having been planted around 1902. Little else remains the same.

Nolan, Glen and Beverley

Glen Lee Nolan was born on January 14th, 1934 in Lethbridge, Alberta. He is the youngest son of three sons of Bill and Helen Nolan. His father, William (Bill) Oliver Nolan, was born March 21st, 1905, in Lethbridge. He was the second youngest of twelve children of Thomas and Thirza Nolan. Glen's mother, Helen Clara (Goode) Nolan was born March 14th, 1911, at Barons, Alberta. She was the first of four children of Charles and Isbella Goode.

Glen married Beverley May Ames on November 3rd, 1956. Beverley was born on February 24th, 1936 in Calgary, Alberta. She is the third child of four children of Cardiff and Helen Ames. Her father was

born October 1st, 1912 in Hanley, Sask. He was the youngest of five children of John and Eva Ames of Calgary, Alberta. Her mother, Helen Beatrice (Lockhart) Ames was born on March 8th, 1911, in Calgary. She was the eldest of three children of William and Esther Lockhart of Calgary.

I, Glen, spent my first years on my father's farm near Picture Butte, starting school at Battersea and then to Iron Springs school. My family moved to Red Deer in 1944 to the farm two miles west of the Crossroads school on the Sylvan Lake road and one and a half miles north. This was the old Trudel farm. My brothers and I went to school at Crossroads.

While I was quite young, I went to work for Bill Hazlett on his farm during the summer months. Then for a couple of years I worked for Wing Wong driving his gas truck. My run was east to Coronation, west to Nordegg and into Mayberries at Red Deer.

At this time in my life I met Beverley. She was working at her Dad's store at Mayberries Trailer Park in the summer of 1952. She has an older brother and sister, Bob and Marilyn and a younger brother Raymond. In 1953, her Mom and Dad ran the store so Beverley started working at the Provincial Training School (now A.S.H. and Deere Home). Her young brother Ray went to Crossroads School from 1953 till June of 1956. In August of 1956, her Mom and Dad and Ray moved to Dawson Creek, B.C. In 1954 Beverley moved to Lacombe and worked in the telephone office which she sure enjoyed.

In 1953, I got a gravel truck with my two brothers, Bert and Charlie. They were then working for Jack Hopkins of Hopkins Construction Ltd., which was a gravel crushing outfit. I worked my truck for Jack from 1953 till 1960.

During these years Beverley and I went together. After a long wait and hard chasing, done by Beverley, of course, I finally caught her. We were married in Gaetz United Church in Red Deer. We had a wonderful honeymoon in California.

Our first home was an eight foot by twenty-seven foot trailer. This might seem small to some, but it was just fine for us. Our first move was to Canmore, where we stayed about three weeks. We then returned to Red Deer and parked at Mayberries Trailer Park. At this point I went up north for a while, leaving Beverley behind. In the winter months I usually left Beverley behind and only came home on weekends. We travelled all over Alberta in the next few years. The furthest north point was Grande Prairie, then south to Milk River, west to Rocky Mountain House, and east to Provost. This was a very interesting and different way of life for Beverley, and something we will both treasure for life. Not many can say they have seen all of Alberta in so few years.

Our first child, Dale Glen, was born on May 25th, 1958, and was the first grandchild for the Nolans, but the fifth for the Ames.

In the spring of 1960, I started to operate a 98 Linkbelt Dragline, still working for Jack Hopkins.

On October 27th, 1960, our second son, Dana William was born. We lived on the farm at Red Deer in our trailer again this winter. In November of 1961, we got ourselves a new trailer. This one was ten foot by forty-six, which seemed so large compared to our first one. We only moved this trailer to New Dayton and Milk River, then home to the farm at Red Deer. On September 28th, 1962, our third son Joseph Cardiff, was born.

On September 5th, 1964, we bought a home in Red Deer. Dale spent the first few days of grade one being driven into Red Deer and back till we got into town.

During the next few years, I had to spend a lot of time away from home. Beverley and the three boys were very lonely as they had been used to being with me at the camps. However, it was natural to settle down permanently in one location when it came time for the boys to start school. Once all the children were in school, another interesting phase of our life started with us travelling together as a family in the summer to the camps again. Four years had passed since they had been to camp with me. It sure was nice to have them with me again.

In 1965, Jack Hopkins sold his construction business.



One of the Nolan Crushing Outfits.

In the spring of 1966, Tony Hopkins, (Jack's youngest son), Charlie Nolan, and I started a partnership business called Hopkins Construction (Lacombe) Ltd. We started out with one crushing outfit. We worked long hours with little pay till we got things going good. After a few years of struggle we managed to get another outfit going.

In 1966, Dale joined Cubs and at this time Bev-

erley became a Cub leader. Our boys all belonged to Cubs and Scouts, finishing in 1977. Beverley, who spent many hours working with the Cubs, got involved in the New Beaver program when it started. She worked as Assistant Director Commissioner for Cubs, and then Assistant District Commissioner for Beavers, helping to get all the groups started in Red Deer. During this time I accompanied and assisted Beverley and other leaders on all camp outs with the Cubs. I also went with the boys and leaders on most Scout outings. This gave me an opportunity to spend many weekends with our boys. Beverley worked with these groups for ten years, retiring in 1977.



The Glen Nolan family, Dale, Glen, Dana, Beverley, and Joe.

In 1967, we took up boating. After a trip to Prince George to visit Beverley's folks, we came home with a new fourteen foot boat with a 45 H.P. motor. The children really liked this and soon learned to water ski. We bought a larger boat, 16 foot, 85 H.P. in 1969 and then another even larger boat, 18 foot, 120 H.P. in 1972. We still have this boat. The boys really enjoy water skiing now and are very good at it. We spent five years going to Shuswap Lake in B.C. This was the first holiday we had since 1966. The last couple of years the boys have been taking the boat themselves as they have outgrown us.

Three snowmobiles have provided us with much fun during the winter months with our boys. We spent many Sundays snowmobiling out at the farm, and got lots of fresh air. The only thing that kept us home in the winter was the winds.

Beverley started playing the accordion in 1970 and took lessons for three and a half years. She is now taking organ lessons, which she enjoys very much. Beverley has other hobbies, too. She sewed drapes for about eight years, bowls and loves to do carpentry work.

My hobbies are fishing, hunting, and sawing down cottonwood trees at my favorite campsite at the farm. I am often referred to by my fellow camp friends as the "busy beaver," especially if I start my little buzz saw up before 7:00 a.m. Somehow I don't think the late sleepers enjoy it too much. I don't have much time to enjoy my hobbies at this time, but some day maybe I will find time. I love to get away from town and the telephone on weekends to my private campgrounds on the farm. Our company bought this farm in about 1974. It is the old Reinie Pomerleau farm, about six miles north on 2A and east to the river. It has four hundred and seventeen acres in all.

From 1966 until 1980, we have gone from one crushing outfit to seven outfits running now. We have a shop in Red Deer where most of the repair work is done and the office is also in this building. Our company employs around eighty men.

Over the past twenty-three and a half years, we have been somewhat busy, like everyone else, raising our boys and building our business. We can now relax a little and do a few of the things we would like to do as our boys will all be off working this summer.

Dale Glen is our first child, he was born on May 25th, 1958, in Lacombe, Alberta. Dale had travelled all over Alberta by the time he was six years old. Dale went to Fairview Elementary School. In 1966, he joined Cubs, then Scouts from 1969 to 1972. At this time he became a junior leader for one year and then a leader for a year, taking his group to Pincher Creek. Fifteen hundred boys from all over North America attended this jamboree.

Dale graduated from Lindsay Thurber Comprehensive High School in 1976. He worked for his Dad for a year and then went to Mount Carmel Bible College in Edmonton, graduating May, 1978. In September of 1978, he went to the Red Deer College to study engineering, and has now finished two years in Red Deer and will probably go to Edmonton to the University of Alberta to further his education in engineering.

Dana William, is our second child, he was born October 27th, 1960, in Red Deer. Dana also travelled Alberta until 1964, at which time we moved to Red Deer. He joined Cubs in 1968, then Scouts from 1971 to 1973 after attending the Jamboree in Pincher Creek.

Dana took accordion lessons for two and a half years. He is exceptionally talented in playing the accordion. He graduated from L.T.C.H. in June 1978.

Dana's hobbies are snowmobiling, camping, skiing (water and down hill in winter), and he loves all sports (physical and T.V.). He is, at this time, work-

ing for his Dad. He hopes to go to University to study Architecture.

Joseph Cardiff is our third child, he was born in September 28, 1962, in Red Deer. Joe was two years old when we came into town. He was very asthmatic as a young fellow. In 1968, he started school. He joined Cubs in 1970, Scouts in 1973, and he went to the Jamboree at Pincher Creek at the same time as his brothers. In July of 1977, Joe went to Prince Edward Island with the Scouts. Between eighteen and twenty thousand Scouts were there from all over the world. They were entertained by Anne Murray.

Joe loves to go anywhere with his Dad, and also with his Uncle Bert, in his big truck. He works at the shop after school with his Uncle Charlie and is willing to do anything. He knows how to operate a loader, a cat, and even a crusher. He is taking Automotives and Welding in school.

Joe's hobbies are C.B. radios, motorbikes, and mechanics. Not to differ from his brothers, he enjoys snowmobiling, water skiing, boating and camping. Joe is going into grade twelve next year and will get his automotives twelve and then he can apprentice the next year. Someday he hopes to be a heavy duty mechanic.

Nolan, Bill (W. O.) and Helen **by Helen Nolan**

Bill was born on March 21st, 1905, in Lethbridge, Northwest Territories. He was the eleventh child born to Thirza and Tom Nolan. The Nolan family came from Atchison, Kansas to Lethbridge in 1890. Mr. Nolan was an engineer on the narrow gauge Alberta Railway and Coal Company. He ran the passenger between Lethbridge and Great Falls, Montana.

The family lived at Lethbridge until April, 1902. Then they moved to their ranch on the Belly (now Old Man) River, about two miles east of where the Nolan bridge stands today.

The Nolan Ranch was a cattle operation until Mr. Nolan recognized the commercial possibilities inherent in raising horses for homesteaders, a practice he and his sons continued for years.

In July of 1926, Bill bought an irrigated farm seven miles east of Picture Butte, Alberta, about three miles from the ranch. He broke it up and raised some good grain crops before the winds and the dust storms of the early 1930's.

On October 21st, 1929, Bill and I were married. I was Helen Goode. My father, Charlie Goode, came to Barons, Alberta about 1907. My mother, Isabella Morrison, came with her sister from Glasgow, Scotland in 1908, to join her sister's husband, Jimmy Dunlop, who had immigrated to the Barhill District a

couple of years before and had taken a homestead there.

My mother and father were married in 1910 and I was born March 14th, 1911, the eldest of four children born to them.

Bill and I had a honeymoon in Calgary, then we went home to the ranch for three months and Bill's mother took a well deserved holiday, visiting relatives in Tacoma, Washington. Bill built a house on our farm during our stay at the ranch.

Our eldest son, Albert, was born on July 27th, 1930, in Coalhurst, Alberta. We were beginning to feel the Depression by then, (the prices of grain and livestock were going down drastically). Everyone thought if we could hold on for a year or two things would come back. Anyone who lived through the 1930's know it took a long time before times changed.

Our second son, Charles, was born on May 28th, 1932 in Lethbridge. By this time the winds and the dust storms had started. On the irrigated land the farmers were still trying to control their land but it was a losing battle as they didn't have the proper machinery to work the land.

Our third son, Glen, was born on January 14th, 1934. We had a long, cold winter that year and when spring did come so did the terrible winds and dust storms. I think it was in 1935 that the government opened a relief camp for single men on the river hill about one half mile from our place. There were one hundred men in camp. They wheeled dirt in wheelbarrows to build and repair the river hill road. In return, they received five (\$5.00) dollars a month and their board and lodging. Bill got the job of ploughing furrows with a walking plough and four horses for the men to shovel into their wheelbarrows. During the winter he hauled coal and supplies from Picture Butte for the camp. He received forty-five cents an hour for himself and his horses and he fed himself and his horses. It wasn't much by today's standards but it seemed like a lot to us at that time.

By 1937 the worst of the depression (the terrible winds and dust storms) gradually let up and we got back to the business of farming. We started growing sugar beets in 1938 as well as grain, peas, beans and alfalfa hay.

Our boys started school at the Battersea School about two miles from home but with the centralization of schools came the school vans. The children were bussed to the Huntsville School in Iron Springs, Alberta, about eight miles away.

In February of 1944, we decided to make a move from the irrigation. We had been to Olds and liked the trees and the lush greenness of the country, so Bill came to Red Deer and bought the Ben and Marie

Trudel place (S.W. 7-39-27-W4). We moved to Red Deer the first day of April, 1944. I think the population at that time was about 5,500. We didn't see the city until we came over the south hill and there in the bottom was Red Deer; quite different than it is today.

We got a room in the hotel to sleep that night. That was a job, as there were hundreds of soldiers stationed here as well as the Air Force at Penhold. I guess the clerk thought we looked like we needed a place to rest and we did. It wasn't the easy four hour drive it is today; we drove all day on gravel roads and we were pretty tired.

Our machinery, household goods, etc., came by C.P.R. freight. The next day we brought our belongings home. Sammy and Lila Balher had come ahead to milk and care for some cattle that Bill had bought at Trudel's sale on March 17th. They stayed and helped us that spring and summer.

The boys started to school at Crossroads and we soon met our neighbors. Mr. and Mrs. Fred Neilson Sr. helped us get acquainted and gave us many helpful hints. Mrs. Neilson took Lila and I to the Poplar Ridge W.I. and we joined at once. We went to all the dances the W.I. put on in the Poplar Ridge Hall, it was an enjoyable way of raising money for the W.I.'s many projects.

We had a hair raising experience that fall when we made a fire in our new heater and the chimney caught fire. We didn't know it was a make shift chimney. The pipes had been put up inside and they had rotted and the birds had made nests with leaves — we sure had a fire. Bill sent one of the boys to ask Jean Bayer and Lou Lancery, who lived across the road from us for help. Jean sat on top of that house and poured pails of water down that chimney and none of it came through, it all went up in steam. I guess Jean was nearly frozen but he wouldn't change off with Bill. Bill, Lou and the boys carried water and handed it up to him on a rope. They gradually got it cooled down. The wall was still warm the next day.

We lived on our farm in the Crossroads district for twenty-three years and we saw many changes in the community. Jean Bayer bought Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Wilkins' place and they moved to Red Deer. He sold the house lot to Mr. and Mrs. Duval Sr. They lived there and Joe and Olive farmed the home place. Jean Bayer later sold all his land and machinery to E. E. Stephenson and Betty and Frank Soderberg lived across the road from us for a few years. I think the hardest blow to us was when Fred Neilson Sr. passed away, he had been such a good friend and neighbor. Fred Jr. and Agnes were farming his father's land by then.

We milked cows for awhile and raised pigs but the most profitable venture was the sheep. We had to

sell them about 1965 as Bill was having so much bronchial trouble, he wasn't well enough to care for the ewes during lambing time. It was about this time that our house was struck by lightning. I hope I never experience anything like that again. I never felt safe after that in a lightning storm.

Our sons have worked in the gravel construction business for years. They bought trucks and hauled gravel mostly for Jack Hopkins. They run under the name of Nolan Bros. In 1966, they bought shares in Hopkins Construction and have gravel crushers all over Alberta. Bert still drives an International tractor and hauls the crushers, loaders and all kinds of equipment to the different pits.



Charlie, Glen and Bert Nolan, 1956.

Charlie and Glen, when not inventing a new gravel crusher or parts that might make a crusher work better, try with the help of their partner, Tony Hopkins, to keep everything working and plenty of jobs ahead.

Bert married June Murphy, on August 20th, 1960, they live in Red Deer. June teaches kindergarten and likes to take college courses. They have two daughters. Rhonda Vivian, born on November 30th, 1963. She is in grade twelve this year and in her third year with the Air Cadets. She is First Class Warrant Officer and is working as a sports instructor at Penhold air base this summer. Susan Malaine was born on August 1st, 1965, she will take grade ten at the Composite High School. She will also be taking Beauty Culture.

Charlie married, Myrna Gusek, on January 25th, 1958. They live in Lacombe. Myrna took an Arts and Design course at the college and also teaches Ceramics at the L.M.C. in Lacombe. She is a great gardener and grows all kinds of plants in her home. They have three children. Charlotte Joan was born January 12th, 1959. She graduated in May, 1980, as a Rehabilitation Aid from the Red Deer College. She likes skiing in the winter and she is learning to water ski this summer. Kristen Helen was born on Septem-

ber 28th, 1964. She is in grade eleven and she likes all kinds of sports and she is also a great cook. Thomas Patrick, named after his great grandfather, was born on September 1st, 1965. He is in grade ten and enjoys most school sports and wants to learn to run big machinery.

Glen married Beverley Ames on November 3rd, 1956. As Glen and Beverley lived on the old farm for awhile they have written their own history.

Bill and I sold our Crossroads farm in February, 1967, to Bill Edgar and Sons. We bought a house in Red Deer, and have been very comfortable and happy since coming to town. We live close to our sons and their families and watching our grandchildren grow into men and women has been a great joy to us.

We celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary in 1979 and I expect we will have a few more to celebrate.



Bill and Helen Nolan's 50th wedding anniversary, 1979.

Olset, Alfred and Phyllis **A Tribute by Alice Wilson**

It was a cold blustery afternoon in November in 1964. The skies were formidable and like the bears of winter, this was one day the Wilsons had more or less hibernated. It was rather startling when the doorbell rang. On opening the door, the visitor was a husky, middle-aged gentlemen whose accent would make any true Canadian Norwegian proud. A short time later, Phyllis and Alfred Olset moved in next door, on

the acreage formerly owned by Corey and Gloris Vandenbrink. They brought with them a wholesome, down-to-earth physiology, farming talents and a keen interest in community endeavors.

Phyllis was a hard working retired farmer's wife. She had many talents and at times a subtle sense of humor. When summer's work was done she would retire to her easel and handicrafts. Various items took shape, nearly always practical and useful. Her mukluks, made from hides she had tanned herself, were not complete until some motif had been painted on in decoration. Then there were her scenes and true-to-life portraits in oil.

One of her masterpieces came to life at the time when the horses in the subdivision were an issue. At the end of one warm summer day the neighbors noticed cars actually stopping, backing up and then slowly driving on. Until a closer look was taken you were certain that the Olsets had three horses stabled in their garage, looking at you over the half barn doors. Now people drive around a second time, more slowly to make sure their eyes are not deceiving them.

The horses are fading just a little now because the master painter is not there to revitalize them. Yet the summer that Phyllis passed away, she completed, revitalized and perfected her horses. She died, just days after she finished, in July, 1974.

Phyllis was a quiet lady and all who came to know her enjoyed her greatly. It was a great treat to walk with her. Her knowledge of nature, human nature and her sense of humor and her good sound approach to life were a talent in themselves. The whole community missed her, as did any one who had the privilege of knowing Phyllis Olset.

Parker, David Cecil and Margaret

David Cecil Parker was the eldest son of the George Henry Parker family. He was born on the farm in the district of Horn Hill in March, 1896. He attended school there and served overseas in the First World War.

He married Margaret Maxwell, a teacher at Horn Hill School then he purchased land adjoining his father's farm.

Cecil and Margaret had three children. MacLlelland Lloyd married Marie Law, they had two sons. Marie passed away in 1953. Later Mac married Elaine Cunningham and they had two sons. The oldest daughter of Cecil and Margaret, Georgan Cecyl married Douglas W. Short and they have one daughter. The youngest daughter, Patricia Edna married Dr. Craig Riddel, they are both with the University of Saskatchewan. They have two daughters in their family.

Cecil and Margaret retired to the Crossroads area in the early 1950's where Margaret passed away on May 7th, 1958. Cecil still resides in the district with his daughter Georgean C. Short.

Petersen, John C. **(Red Deer and District Archives)**

Mr. and Mrs. John C. Petersen were married in Hartland, Wisconsin, U.S.A. They came to Red Deer shortly afterwards.

The Petersens farmed the N.E. 29-38-27-W4, in the Crossroads district. They continued farming this land for nearly twenty years. About 1929, they sold to A. Rioux and they moved to North Red Deer.

At the time of Mrs. Petersen's passing, they had an adopted daughter, Mrs. Robert Petts, and an adopted son, Edward Thorson.

Philip, Mrs. Henrietta **by the Philips Families**

In the early nineteen hundreds, Mrs. Henrietta Philip came to Alberta from Ontario. She brought with her six children; her two stepsons, Robert and Harvey, two daughters, Margaret and Mary and two sons, Archie and Norman. They came to Alberta in hopes that the change in climate and the good Alberta sunshine would enable Margaret, the oldest daughter, to regain her health.

She settled on a farm in the Crossroads district. This farm, the three quarters of section 9-39-27-W4th, was divided almost in two by the C.N.R.

The oldest stepson, Robert, returned to Ontario. He set up a business there and married. The second stepson remained here to help on the farm. In the less busy times he went out to work, to help financially. The two sons, Archie and Norman, went to school at Crossroads. The eldest daughter, Margaret, owing to poor health, didn't have that privilege. Mary started school there too. Margaret's health did not improve and she passed away at Easter time a few years later. While working out, Harvey had an attack of appendicitis and died that same year.

Mrs. Philip and her two teenage sons carried on the farm work and Mary went to school. Later, Mary and her mother built a store in Haynes.

Norman married Grace Wheeler and lived on the farm. He and Archie farmed the land together. On January 13th, 1921, Norman's wife, Grace, passed away leaving three small children; Henry, only three years old; Emma, 18 months and a premature infant, Robert. Mrs. Philip and Mary, who at this time lived in Calgary, took these children home and raised them. This being the third family Mrs. Philip had raised. It should be noted that Mrs. Philip also owned

the S.E. ¼ of 34-38-28-W4th, in the Poplar Ridge area which she sold to Levi Miller.

Mrs. Philip and Mary moved to Vancouver in 1925, taking Norman's three children with them. Of this family, Harvey married Gertrude in July, 1941. They have two daughters, Carole and Janet. Carole married Edward Kolarcik in November of 1963. They have one son and live in North Vancouver. Janet was married in October of 1968 and they live in Vancouver also and they have one daughter.

Emma married Art Wohlberg in September 1941, they have two children, Margaret and Kenneth. Margaret married Jim Vardy in May, 1976 and they live in Vancouver. Kenneth married Lila in August, 1973, they have two children, Tiane and Mathew. They live in Sechelt, B.C.

Robert married Ruth, in November of 1942, they have twins, Nancy and Nina. Nancy married Rudy Wolleswinkel in May of 1972, they reside in Toronto. Nina married Grant Manning, in December of 1968, they have one son, Brian, and live in San Diego.

Until her passing in 1937, Mrs. Philip resided the last years with her daughter, Mary.

Mary married Jack Baker in 1946 and she spent her remaining years in Vancouver. Jack passed away in 1956 and Mary died in 1965.

Philip, Norman and Evelyn

Norman, who lost his first wife in 1921, married Evelyn Wilson in 1929. They had seven children; Burnadett, May, Norman (Bud), Keith, John (Reggie), Grace and Richard. Norman and Evelyn lived on the farm in Crossroads and the older children of their family attended Crossroads School. In 1941 the family moved to Vancouver.

Burnadett married Henry Whiteman, in 1955. They have a family of two children, Stephen and Barbara. Stephen married Pattie in 1978 and they have one daughter.

May married William Thompson, in October, 1954. They have two sons, Barry and Randy. Barry married Melody in October, 1976.

Norman (Bud) and Marylne were married in 1968. They have one daughter and three sons from a first marriage; Leeann, Raymond, Michael, and Kevin.

John married Marjorie in 1959, and they have two children; Roland and Lorrenda.

Grace and Dave De Roche were married in June, 1958. They have four children; Mark, Roger, Jenille and Doug. Mark married Darlene in October, 1978.

Keith and Richard are not married and live in or near Vancouver, as do all the families of Norman and Evelyn. Norman died in 1962 and Evelyn passed away in 1972.

Philip, Archie and Catherine

Archie married Catherine, who had taught school at Hopedale, a country school of thirty or more pupils. They lived on the farm and raised a family of four; Gordon, Margaret, Marion and Ronald. All of these children went to school at Crossroads, until they moved to Red Deer to finish their education.

Gordon, Margaret and Ronald are all married and live in Red Deer. Marion and her husband, George, live at 100 Mile House, B.C., where they have a garage business. The older ones of their family have graduated from school and are working. The youngest is still in High School.

Margaret and her husband, Vergil, live in Red Deer. Their family are all out working at their various occupations. Margaret is doing secretarial work.

Ronald is an electrician. He and Jacqueline's family of five, graduated from Lindsay Thurber High School.

Gordon and Laura live in Red Deer, where is manager of MacDonalds Consolidated. Their family live in and around Red Deer, where each is occupied with their chosen line of work.

Plumb, Edwin (Red Deer and District Archives)

In the area between Red Deer and Blackfalds, few of the early settlers were better known than Edwin (Teddy) Plumb.

He was born in Stratford-on-Avon, England, about 1868, and had he arrived there three centuries earlier, he had those individualistic attributes that might have qualified him as a character in one of Shakespeare's plays. As it was, he started as a small boy to train as a jockey, but when he started to take on a little too much weight, he had to turn to some other type of vocation.

With horses still his principal source of interest, he joined the 9th Lancers and he was a member of the escort for Queen Victoria at her Golden Jubilee celebration.

Taking his discharge from the army, he came to Canada in 1891, journeying up to Red Deer from Calgary soon after the Calgary and Edmonton railway became operative. His brother, Amos, had settled the year before in the Crossroads district, and Teddy homesteaded the quarter section on the Calgary and Edmonton trail that was later farmed by Fred Losse.

About 1900, he purchased the farm three miles northwest of the Losse place, which was his home for the balance of his life. Cattle and horses were his particular interest and by 1910, he had built up a splendid Shorthorn herd. In 1914, one of his bulls

brought the highest price paid at the Calgary bull sale up to that time.

The following year was one of tragedy for the Plumb family, as on June 6, Mrs. Plumb, who had been in poor health for some time, wandered away from home and could not be located. The Red Deer Boy Scouts were called upon to assist in the search, but to no avail, and Mr. Plumb finally found her body on June 18, in the Blindman River, three and a half miles below the traffic bridge.

His early military service gave him an interest in and taste for army life, which he never lost. When the 187th, Central Alberta Battalion was recruited in the spring of 1916, he enlisted, although several years over age, together with his son, John, who was almost two years under age. On proceeding overseas, the battalion was stationed at Witley Camp, Surrey, and in nearby Milford, Mr. Plumb met and later married his second wife, who had been born in Milford in 1876.

For service in France, he was posted to a Canadian Forestry battalion, with which he served until the end of the war. After demobilization in 1919, he returned to the farm at Blackfalds, but his health subsequently was never really good and he had several long stays in Colonel Belcher Hospital in Calgary, prior to the long illness that culminated in his death on June 8, 1936, at the age of 68.

Mrs. Plumb, an active woman who took a keen interest in affairs generally, possibly over-taxed herself in faithfully ministering to her husband during his last illness. At any rate, her health began to fail thereafter, and following two months of serious illness, she died on February 20, 1938. Mr. Plumb and both of his wives are buried in the Blackfalds Cemetery.

The family consisted of a daughter, who died in 1925, and four sons, John, Thomas H., Fred and James.

John was born at Blackfalds on May 5, 1900, and grew up in that area. He enlisted with the 187th Battalion in 1916 and served in France with the Forestry Corps. Returning to the Blackfalds district after demobilization, he was married there to Mary Graves, who was born in the area between Blackfalds and Lacombe, and he remained there until after his father's death. Following the outbreak of the Second World War, he was in Montreal, where he joined the Black Watch Home Defence Corps and he was later employed by Fairchild's Aircraft. In 1943, he moved to Victoria, B.C., where he was employed by Yarrows Ltd., before going into construction work. Subsequently, he made his home at Langford, B.C. He died at Victoria on September 15, 1962, at the age of 62 and he is buried in a Victoria cemetery. Surviving

were his wife, two sons, Robert and William, and three daughters, Pamela, Beverly and Audrey. One daughter, Pearl, died in Eldon, Washington, in 1961.

Thomas H. Plumb, who was born in Blackfalds in 1902, later farmed in the Leedale district. He died in February, 1960 at the age of 57.

Fred Plumb farms in the Norma district.

James Plumb is engaged in farm work in the Blackfalds district.

Plumb, Amos (Red Deer and District Archives)

Amos Plumb was born in Whitchurch, Warwickshire, England. In 1882, he came to Toronto, where he worked as a tailor.

In 1892, he came to Red Deer and homesteaded the N.W. 4-39-27-W4, which was home to him until his passing in April of 1926.

Pomerleau, Theodule (Ted) and Eveline

Theodule (Ted) Pomerleau was born in 1893 in St. Agnes, Beauce County, thirty miles from Quebec City. One of a family of nine boys and four girls, raised on a small rocky farm and no future prospects he came west to Calgary at the age of nineteen years. He spent his first two years driving a truck for the C.P.R., before moving to Red Deer in 1915. Ted's success out west prompted his father, Louis, to bring out the younger sons on March 15, 1916. These were Irene (Rene), Wilfred (Fred) and sixteen year old Odillon. Having a large family and a small farm, he wanted his sons to have an easier life than he had.

The original Pomerleau homestead was purchased from a family of McLennen's northeast of Red Deer along the Red Deer River. Later, the Schunaman land was acquired. This land had to be broken by the boys. They lived in a log cabin and worked hard. In 1916, they purchased from the Doyle family all of their livestock, chickens and ducks. Mr. Doyle was not in good health and his children were too young to carry on. The Doyle and Pomerleau families had known each other from the early years in Frampton, Quebec. Odillon Pomerleau returned east a few years later.

Although the three sons lived together, Ted worked on the railroad as a conductor in order to pay for the homestead. Rene joined the army and served overseas in World War I. When he returned from the army he borrowed money from the Soldiers Settlement Board and purchased a piece of property along the river, commonly known as "the flat". In April of 1919, Ted bought the quarter section on top of the hill, opposite the farm site of Fred McKee.

Ted, having a childhood sweetheart, realized he could never bring a bride to live with his bachelor

brothers, so in January of 1924, he purchased the Ried farm, 10-39-27-W4, which had been farmed by William Milne. This was the farm where Ted finally settled and raised nine children.

In 1928, Ted returned to Quebec where he married Eveline Cloutier, on February 13th. Eveline also came from a large family of five boys and five girls. Ted and Eveline honeymooned in the States on their way out west. Amid much crying and sad farewells, Eveline was warned to "Watch out for the Indians". We find this quite funny, as our ancestors arrived from France in 1863 and one of them, Paul Pomerleau married a French lady, whose great-grandmother "Flavie" was a fullblood Iroquois lady. This goes back five generations.



First home of Ted and Eveline Pomerleau, 1928.

The house that Ted and Eveline where to call home had been unoccupied for a time and had been a refuge for passers-by. It did not even have a wooden floor, this was fixed by Ted when he had one installed. The old house was probably built by the Reids.

Eveline was twenty-two years old and faced with total isolation. She spoke no English, and with Ted away, could not converse with anyone. All her shopping was done at Lowe's grocery store with French-English dictionary in hand. Getting down town was inconvenient, so Ted left her the car while he was away. He just took her down-town and told her to drive home. This she did, all six miles in second gear. Her one and only driving lesson in a model A Ford.

Ted and Eveline had nine children; Angele Stubbins, a nurse in New York has no children; Jean Lois Pomerleau, an auctioneer in Red Deer, has three girls and a boy; Henriette Roddick, with E.R.C.B. in Calgary has three girls; Guy Leo Pomerleau, an investor in Calgary, has four boys and one girl; Doris Fraser, a teacher-editor at Swan Hills has three boys and four girls; Berthe Truant homemaker near Red



Ted Pomerleau family, standing L. to R.: Doris, Henriette and husband Bruce, Guy and wife Pat, seated Jean Louis, Bertha, Ted, Angele, Eveline, Gerald and Gaetane.

Deer, has two boys and one girl; Adrian Pomerleau died at three years of spinal meningitis, Gerald Hector Pomerleau, a welder at Red Deer, is single; Gaetane Pomerleau a nurses aide in Calgary, is single.

Of worthy note, all the children were born at home, with the exception of Angele who was born at Mrs. Simmons' nursing Home in Red deer, and the last two, Gerald and Gaetane, who were born in the Red Deer Hospital. Mrs. Simons, a lady from Ontario, spoke some French, so she attended Eveline as mid-wife along with Dr. Mac Parsons. Records where not always properly kept and daughter, Berthe, was in her 20's before she found out her birth had never been recorded. Relying on Church baptismal certificates and sworn affidavits from three good neighbors, who had known her as a child, plus a notary public, she finally became legal.

In 1932, Ted and Eveline, having put aside a little money, built a two storey house for their growing family. This was also the year that interest rates were 10% and he was out of a job. It was the depression and not many C.P.R. trains were running. The wood for the new house had been ageing in the barn. Mr. Robinson, our carpenter, was paid 35 cents an hour plus all he could eat. Graham Ried was our hired man and Annie Soderquist was our hired girl. Without the help of these good people it would have been an impossible feat. Helping Mr. Robinson, were Mr.



Pomerleau home built 1932.

Gummow, Jack MacKzel, Mr. Gano and Mr. Courtvait. The total wages paid were \$285.50. Eveline's records show a total expenditure of \$3,500.00.

This was the depression years. The C.N.R. tracks to Rocky Mountain House passed near our house and we would play games counting the men sitting or standing in the open doors of the box cars. It was sad, men going here and there looking for work. Our impressive, large home had many knocks on the doors from people looking for food. Many offered to chop wood, milk cows or do anything for a warm meal and a bed in the bunk house. This bunkhouse was on wheels, had a pot-bellied stove and slept six. Any extras slept in the barn, that was when the "No Smoking" rule was put into effect. There was no money, these people were paid with hot meals and a

place to sleep. Sometimes a reward of a can of snuff or roll in tobacco was in order.

French was spoken continually in our home. Ted would bring home the English newspapers for us to read and we also learned English from the many hired men and transients who stopped by.

Of all the children, Angele, John, Henriette and Guy rode horseback to the Convent or were driven by Eveline in a 1928 Pontiac, until the day she missed the "S" curve and ended up in the ditch.

Along with the morning chores, driving Ted to work, Guy being sick and the hired man caring for the younger children, it was too much. Eveline enrolled all the older children, numbering five at this time, in the Crossroads school. Berthe was enrolled a year later and was mostly taught by her brothers and sisters, who translated from English to French for her.

Our teachers were as follows: Miss Bacon, Miss Anderson, Mrs. Roughhead, Miss Jevne, and Mrs. Hankins. Most of the teachers boarded at Mrs. Losse's. The school inspector was Mr. Thurber.

Confession is good for the soul, so now one can admit to being accessory after the fact. The janitors at the school were mostly pupils and the teachers were not always the first there, occasionally the chimney would become plugged or the pipes that ran to the bank of the room would mysteriously collapse covering the room with soot, thus giving an undeclared holiday. Since the grades at Crossroads only went up to grade eight, all the Pomerleau children later attended St. Joseph Convent.

A cutter was built for us by Mr. Selvais, the blacksmith, to use in the winter for the two mile trip to school. We picked up the Philip children, Gordon, Margaret, Marion and Ronald for company. With sheep skins, cowhides, straw chopped for the horse, and our lunches wrapped in newspaper, we were on our way.

Travel in the late spring was straight past Murray's to the Strathers place then west to school. Mr. Strathers once married in England or Scotland lived alone with his dogs. When he passed away he had about twenty dogs in his home. We always feared passing his home, because of the dogs. Not far around the corner lived Mike Davis, a tall Irish bachelor, who smoked a curved pipe.

In the spring a two wheeled cart was called for, pulled by an old, one-eyed, white mare called "Pearl". This was during the war years when Army convoys travelled the highway. Pearl's good eye was on the side of the ditch. We had regular runaways, so a canvas tarp was a necessity. We would be splattered with liquid manure or dumped in the ditch. Pearl would trot off to school by herself. "Topsy", a race

horse was used on the buggy, and the only way she could be stopped was to run her into a ditch of spring water. These episodes were called "appi-cranche" a home made word combining accident and crash.

We had many hired men some who came as transients and stayed on for years. One of these hired men, Angele remembers and with good reason. Fred Neilson, a local Crossroads resident, came to work for Ted in 1934, and is remembered by Angele because he saved her from serious injury when she became caught in the fanning mill. While playing in the mounds of grain Angele's dress and hand became caught in the gears of the mill. Fred ran to stop the tractor and then carried her to the house. There were no broken bones, just chewed up skin and scars to this very day.

During the late spring and early summer of the 1940's, an Indian family from Hobbema and a tinker made regular stops across the road from our house. They camped there on their way to Calgary. The Indian family, by the name of Johnson, stopped year after year, trading work for food. He broke horses for a living. We children were fascinated by the baby's moss diapers that were left in the sun to dry, and the cradle board. The men had long black braids and everyone wore beaded mocassins. This family was a happy lot and we never heard the children cry. Although Mr. Johnson was the only one to speak any English, we became close friends and looked forward to their visit every year.

The tinker, we don't recall his name, had a regular decorated gypsy wagon. He mended pots and pans, sold bright thread and bought rags. A charming, colorful character. He and his trade disappeared during the war years.

Some of the neighbors we recall; the Doyles, the Philip families, the Richardsons and the Price family. The Plums, the Cardinals, the Landrys, Gregaires, Bradburys, Millers, Ingrams, the Flacks, Nashs, Heywoods, and Vickers. Our apologies to any of our neighbors we might have missed.

School days at Crossroads were great, our teachers kept us busy. We had a St. Johns Ambulance Group, practicing first aid. We made potholders and a patchwork quilt for the Red Cross. Spelling bees and geography contests in the winter when lunch hours were shorter and it was too cold to be outside. Families who had cows took turns bringing milk to school and the teachers would whip up steaming cups of hot cocoa.

Harvest naturally was a community project with neighbors and friends helping each other. Duncan McNichol, who lived along the Bindman River did most of our threshing. Ted later bought a Rumley and separator so we could do our own.

In 1948, a hog barn was built measuring 25 by 100 feet. Before being put to use, barn dances were held every Friday night. These were so well received that large chartered busses rolled into the yard. The Crossroads ladies group along with others catered to these dances, selling homemade sandwiches, pies, cakes, coffee and soft drinks. Longacre's orchestra was the band most frequently hired. The pigs were finally ushered in to their new home after complaints were received from a Sylvan Lake Hall asking that our licence not be extended.

We also recall the once a year get-togethers of the French speaking people. Not all that came were French speaking some were Swiss, German, and Belgian.

Ted's holidays were taken in the spring and the fall of the year in order to plant and harvest the crop. The biggest event of the year was the annual C.P.R. banquet held in Calgary, which he and Eveline attended. He made infrequent trips back east. Eveline on the other hand would take the six children, along with wooden cases packed with food, on the train for a visit to her family. The journey usually took four days.

Eveline was always interested in antiques, particularly in horse-drawn buggies. On her frequent trips east she purchased, buggies, cutters and sleds. On one trip she bought a 200 year old, horse-drawn hearse, with accompanying mourners carriage. With the help of her son, Gerald, these were later restored and featured in the Red Deer parade. Most of these purchases were made in her home town of St. Marie and shipped west by rail. The hearse, an ornately carved and decorated, enclosed vehicle had spoke wheels, large heavy pom-poms on the four corners of

the roof. It had glass windows so the coffin was visible to all passers-by. Eveline found it on the edge of a garbage dump. She paid \$300.00 for it and it cost an additional \$152.00 for shipping. Eveline owned an extensive collection of buggies, even some manufactured in the late 19th century.

With the lack of storage space and the care needed to keep all these artifacts, they were auctioned off by Jean Louis on June 14, 1974. The hearse and carriage can be seen today at the Stan Reynolds Museum. Eveline retained a few buggies, glass ware and a 125 year old spinning wheel which belonged to her grandmother.

During Ted's 45 year career with the C.P.R., he covered all of Central Alberta until his retirement in June 1958, and his subsequent death six months later.

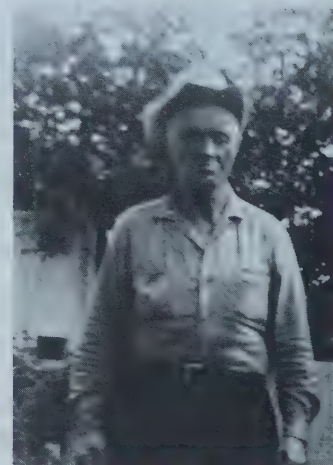
As of July, 1980, Eveline is still residing on the family farm with her youngest son, Gerald. She enjoys fair health and her children are frequent visitors.

Pomerleau, Fernand (Fernie)

Uncle Fernie arrived west in 1940, at a young age, and farmed with Rene. He left Rene's and the Red Deer area to work on other farms.

At 52 years of age, he married Dorothy Rossman, a talented music teacher, and they presently reside in Arrowwood, Alberta.

Fred Pomerleau, 1963.



Pomerleau, Wilfred (Fred)

Uncle Fred was a bachelor, he liked to be alone, but had many a colorful character as hired men. One of these was from Gravelbourg, Sask. This fellow was said to have made and sold moonshine to the Alberta Hotel during prohibition. Mr. Flett also worked for Fred. He was five foot four and is said to have lived in a cave on Fred's place. George Gregoire was often Fred's companion and sawed a lot of wood with him.



Eveline Pomerleau's funeral hearse and carriages as seen in the Red Deer Exhibition parade.

Fred, who lived his life alone, a gruff man on the exterior, was kind and generous to those he liked. The fact that he had lost one eye when gored by a bull, added to his rough, tough appearance.

Once a year the prominent business men of Red Deer were invited out by Fred for the annual goose shoot, a bit of good whisky and hearty conversation. All of Fred's hunting buddies were invited.

Fred was often seen at McLevin's Welding shop and he and George became good friends. A friendship that Fred cherished. He passed away on November 14, 1970, at the age of 72 years. Fred had only returned to eastern Canada once.

Pomerleau, Irene (Rene)

Uncle Rene was a bachelor, who married late in life. Returning from the War, he bought 280 acres of land from the Saskatchewan land and Homestead Company. Though he had only a grade three education, through his native intuition and friendliness he prospered. During his life he acquired over 1500 acres of land in the area.

Rene worked in the lumber camps at Rocky Mountain House and Nordegg during the winter.

In 1954, he built a new two-bedroom house, when he heard his sister, Sister Gabrielle, was coming for a visit. She came August 18, in celebration of her 25 years in the sisterhood.



Rene Pomerleau, 1964.

Rene was a regular church go-er and had a generous heart. Many orphans, relatives and even non-Catholic children were put through school at St. Joseph's Convent by him.

Rene had a beautiful buffalo coat, which he wore every winter. With snow on the shoulders, he looked like a huge bear. We children used to scare each other by wearing it.

Late in life, Rene married Rose Hnatshyn, a hard working lady who had raised a family of her own. Rose still resides on ten acres of the original farm. Here she raises chickens, ducks, turkeys, geese, pigs and milk cows.

Rene passed away on March 15, 1970, at the age of 71 years.

Pomerleau, Alcide

Alcide Pomerleau was a shoe maker. He was a nephew of Ted's. He was the last relative to come west and stay. He stayed with Ted's family for a short time in 1946. He has resided at the Arlington Inn for over 25 years.



Alcide Pomerleau, 1979.

The History of the POMERLEAU Family — Compiled by Angele Stubbins, Doris Fraser and Berthe Truant (Nee: Pomerleau). All dates, important events and pertinent information was carefully recorded as told us by others who helped us along the way. Our sincere apologies for any errors or omissions in our recollections.

August 1, 1980

Podridske, James and Annie by Freda Bertram

The James Podridske family came to the Crossroads district on April 20th, 1950. They purchased the land, a portion of the S.E. ¼-31-38-27-

W4, from Mr. Bob Edgar. This was a sixty-five acre parcel and was located one mile south of the Crossroads School.

None of the family ever attended Crossroads School as they had all finished their education near Millet, Alberta, where the family had previously lived.

The family of James and Annie, four girls and two boys, were Garce, Esther, Emily, Faye, Violet and Walley. Garce, the eldest has been employed by the C.P.R. for twenty-nine years in Red Deer. He lives at home with his parents.

Esther married Alberta Pill and they live in Ponoka, Alberta. They have one son and one daughter. Emily married Henry Rehaume and they have two daughters. They live in Wetaskiwin, Alberta. Faye married Helmut Tylke, they have seven children and live in Falum, Alberta. Violet married Herb Brewer, they live at Fox Creek in Northern Alberta and have no children. Walley and Edna live in Wetaskiwin and they have three sons.

On the sixty-five acres, they raised grain, hay and kept a few cattle. They also grew a large garden every year. A large flock of turkeys was raised as well that found a ready market supplying the area with Christmas turkeys.

In 1973, they sold out to the city and bought a house in Red Deer, where they now reside.

Popowicz, Michael and Honorata by Irene Belich

Popowicz, Michael, born November 22, 1907 to John and Maria Popowicz at Bubniczce, Poland.

When rumors of war were threatening and unsettling the village populace, John Popowicz immigrated to Montreal in 1912 to find a new home for his family. At the end of World War 1, in 1922, he sent for his wife and two children. An infant son, Bill, and young Nick, his wife and he settled on a farm at Indian Head, Saskatchewan and then later moved to Ituna, Saskatchewan. Michael stayed with an uncle in Poland and followed his mother and brothers one year later. He came to Canada, April 19, 1923, at the age of 16 years.

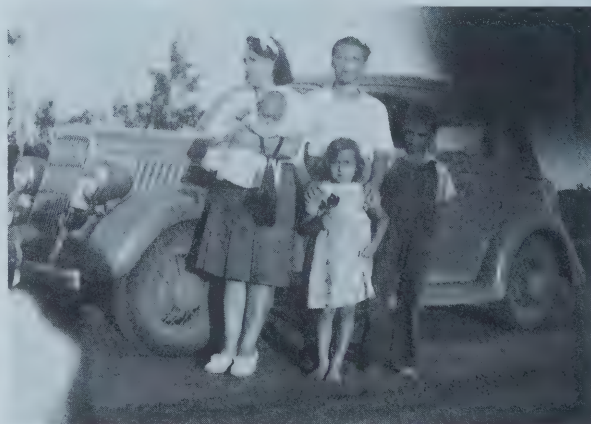
Michael worked on a large farm in Indian Head, Saskatchewan and was taught to read and write English by the owners, a lawyer and a teacher. He took a barbering course in Winnipeg and barbered in Indian Head but found the trade not too lucrative and returned to farm work. He met the former Honorata Blaskiewicz, born March 22, 1907, at Dabrowa, Poland.

Honorata immigrated to Canada in June, 1930, to be with her friends who were leaving her village. She

recalls a journey of six days from Denmark to Halifax on the Cunard Line, sunny but windy days and waves the size of mountains, resulting in a good case of sea sickness. She spoke no English and brought with her one suitcase and a feather tick. She boarded a train at Halifax, packed to capacity with immigrants and arrived at Indian Head, Saskatchewan, where she did housekeeping duties. She met Michael through his father and they were married in 1933. They came to Alberta in 1934 and lived in one of the houses at the Red Deer Indian Industrial School, three and a half mile upstream from Red Deer. This school was for the purpose of training and educating Indian children and was closed in 1919.

Michael worked for Adolph Schoch, in the Shady Nook area, who was a progressive farmer at that time and also later worked for another prominent farmer, Mr. Reveyrand, in the Poplar Ridge area. This site is now owned by W. H. Edgar. In May, 1939, he bought a parcel of land, N.E. 18-38-27-W4, along the old Burnt Lake Trail and built a small house with lumber he obtained while working one winter at a logging camp in Rocky Mountain House. Hard times were evident but Michael was a conscientious and hard worker and managed to clothe, feed and educate his family along with their help. He was foreman and boiler engineer for the Red Deer Laundry and then Munro and Baines Dry Cleaning for 16 years, owned and operated by Al Shaddick. He was also Boiler Engineer and Maintenance Man at the Penhold Radar Station just before his retirement and early death in January, 1976.

Michael built a small house in approximately 1942 with the help of Les Oulton and Bob Doig from the Shady Nook area. This house still stands with improvements made along the years. Gone are the wooded areas and surrounding farms owned by Jack Hotzman and Mrs. Donnelly, replaced by Fairview



Michael Popowicz family, Michael, Honorata, Irene, Jack, Laurene and Sandy.

and Oriole Park. A bus stops in front of the door for transportation to an expanding and bustling city.

All the Popowicz children, Irene Nora born January 12, 1934; Jack William, April 18, 1936; Laurene Elizabeth, November 8, 1941; and Lorretta Alexandra (Sandy), February 20, 1947, walked to school two and three miles then progressed to balloon tired bicycles as soon as enough money was earned and put by to purchase one.

Winters were very cold and the roads packed high with snow drifts. The only way to town and school was to walk over them. Clothing was not as modern and sleek as today. Irene remembers much hated brown Lyle Stockings with heavy underwear underneath that inevitably showed that telltale seam on the side. In Grade 1, the Vogue was navy blue underpants, fleece lined that came to the knee.

Neighbors across the road at that time were Walter and Elsie Thompson and their two girls, Myrtle and Verna. Walter trained and bred purebred dogs and ran a boarding kennel. Much is owed to this family in helping Honorath and two children, Irene and Jack, learn to speak English and become accustomed to a change in culture and beginning of school. Abe and Sevia Robinson settled near the Thompson's at a later date. Abe was a horse dealer and lived to 99 years — passing away in 1980.

Entertainment was simple in those days, sledding on cardboard or makeshift sleds or skiing on borrowed wooded skis at the Red Deer Golf Course Hill. That hill seemed so very large when young. Summers were spent helping with a large garden, swimming at the Red Deer River and hunting for flowers and berries in the surrounding woods. Each fall, with its long and sunny days, the children were required to help harvest the crop of potatoes into a large pile to dry and cure and then stored in the cellar. When John Holtzman's crop was cut by binder and a house of stooks built — much to John Holtzman's displeasure!

As soon as the children were old enough, they held part-time jobs, helping to pay for their education. The three girls, Irene, Laurene and Sandy are Registered Nurses from the University of Alberta Hospital, Edmonton, and Jack is a Doctor of Paediatrics, a graduate from the University of Alberta.

Irene married Percy Belich in February, 1961. They are busy with a family farming and feedlot operation and reside in the Poplar Ridge area. They have two children, Norana Joy born January 2, 1962, and Stewart John Frederic, January 16, 1965.

Jack married the former Victoria Beaveridge in April, 1962, also a graduate registered nurse from the Misrconcordia Hospital, Edmonton. They have two

boys, Michael born February, 1963, and Jon, January, 1966. Jack continues his Paediatric Practice in Edmonton and his wife, Vicky, teaches Nursing Students at the Royal Alexandra Hospital, Edmonton.

Laurene married Edward Raybould from Red Deer in November, 1969. They have two children, Elizabeth born August, 1970, and Marcel, December, 1977. Laurene continues to nurse part time and Edward is with the Alpha Dairy Plant.

Sandy married Jim Bratvold from Edmonton. She lives in Victoria, B.C., and continues her nursing profession.

Honorata is still busy with her well loved flowers and garden, hobnobbing with friends and making frequent trips to town made conveniently easy by the bus stopping at her gate. She remains at the same residence since 1939 and is in good health.

Prendergast, J. C. and Amy

J. C. Prendergast married Amy Hart in 1935. They lived in the west country where they raised two children, Amy Marie and Fredrick Robert.

For many years the Prendergasts sorted and hauled mail for R.R. 4, which for a time, ran through the Poplar Ridge area.

In 1957, the family moved to the Crossroads district.

Amy Marie married William Kerr of the R.C.M.P., they live in Ontario.

Fredrick Robert married Alexis Prystipa and lives in Calgary.

Ray, F. L.

F. L. Ray was born in Quebec in 1873. He came west to ranch during the late 1880's and settled on the S.W. 20-38-27-W4. He lived there for a time before moving into Red Deer.

He was never married and passed away on March 10, 1936, after returning to Eastern Canada.

Reed, Ernest and Vera

Ernest, son of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Reed was born in April of 1914. Ernie attended school in the city of Red Deer.

He married Vera Wark of Swan River, Manitoba. Vera was born in July of 1914. She received her schooling in Swan River.

Ernest worked as a carpenter in Red Deer for a number of years and then he was employed at the Alberta School Hospital. They moved to the Crossroads district in 1948.

Vera and Ernie had three sons; Ron, Vernon (Joe) and Douglas. Douglas passed away in November of

1951 at the age of six and a half years. They also have a daughter, Mary Lou. Ron, Vernon and Mary Lou all attended school at Crossroads, and like most children of the area completed their education at River Glen and the Composite High School.



The Reed and Baldwin children.

Ron and his wife, Sandra, live on an acreage in the Crossroads district. They have three children Rhonda, William and Brett. Mary Lou married Fred Hill, they have two girls, Leann and Joann and live in Rocky Mountain House. Vernon married Chrissy in 1980 and they live in Vancouver.

Vera was a member of the Crossroads Community Club for many years while they lived in the district. Ernest and Vera sold their acreage and now make their home in Red Deer.

Reid, Peter (Red Deer and District Archives)

Peter Reid homesteaded the N.E. 10-39-27-W4, in 1892. He owned this land at the time the railroad was put through the area. In later years the land was owned by William Milne and in 1924, it was bought by Ted Pomerleau.

Peter Reid passed away in Winnipeg, Manitoba, in March of 1914.

Rhine, Lewis and Elizabeth

On leaving Red Deer, corner of Rotary Park and Piper's Mountain, Lewis and Elizabeth Rhine moved their 8 x 18 foot trailer to the farm. They had purchased the farm the year before.

The move was made Monday, April 30, at 3:30 p.m. Our two girls moved with us. We must admit we started from scratch, with no water, no plumbing, no power and no telephone. The water was hauled by cream can each day from the Alpha Plant where Lewis worked. Before long we had power and running water, and of course, the telephone.

Our first year on the farm, we found we had gophers as guests, eating right along with the chick-



Lewis and Elizabeth Rhine.

ens. This was one of the first problems that had to be taken care of.

Gloria, the oldest girl, went to Crossroads school. The school was only one mile south. Mrs. Crossley was the teacher at this time, just grades one to six were taught. The older grades went to River Glen.

In a few years when our daughter, June, was ready to start school, a small bus was beginning to pick up the children and came right by the door. A



Elizabeth, Gloria and June Rhine.

few years later Central Park had come into existence and a larger bus made the rounds of the community.

Our plans were to dairy farm, ship cream and raise pigs and calves. An added extra was raising chickens and turkeys. This endeavor kept things very active, calves and piglets often were brought into the house to care for their ailments. Most often the animals recovered. I sure had some wonderful pets. We certainly learned by doing, we both became carpenters, plumbers, sewer and water specialists.

Gloria is now married to Bucky Scott of Innisfail. They have one daughter, Lorinda Lee, eight years old.

June married Raymond Ranger. They have two boys, Jason, eight years, and Daryl, six. June and Raymond have a huge pig farm five miles west of Red Deer.

In 1975, Elizabeth Rhine married Ivor Brown, a grain farmer from Saskatchewan. They live on the former Rhine farm.

To us farming has been the greatest experience and very educational.

Richardson, Harry and Molly **by C. Richardson**

Harry Richardson was born in Puslinch, Ontario in 1891. In 1909 he purchased the S.W.¼ of 9-39-27-W4th. The Morten Brothers, former owners of the land, are said to have both died after being gassed while digging a water well.

Harry farmed for a few years until the first World War broke out. He was overseas for these years and returned to the farm after the war ended. Harry married Mary (Mollie) Leonard of Manitoba. He also acquired the S.E.¼ of 16-39-27 W4th, and here Harry and Mollie raised four children. The early farming was done with horses and in later years a tractor was used.

Their four children, Rodney, Charlie, Jean and Merrill all attended Crossroads school.

When war broke out in 1939, Harry again joined the services and went overseas. Mollie worked for many years as a legal secretary in a law office in Red Deer, until her sudden passing in 1966. Harry remained on the farm until his passing in 1974.

Rodney, born in 1928, passed away in 1955.

Charles married Dorene (Dodie) Metcalf in 1956. They have three children, Donna-Faye, Charlie (Rick) and Terry Lea. Charles, Dodie and family moved to the farm after Harry's passing.

Jean married Wayne Austin, in 1966. They live in California. They have one son, Bradly. Merrill married Berddett Dodd of Olds, in 1962. They live in Calgary and have two children, Mark and Marla.

Richardson, Charles and Muriel

Charles, my husband, came from Joffre, Alberta, where he resided with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Richardson. They owned the Joffre General Store. He had two brothers, Doug and Curly.

I, Muriel, lived in Pleasant Valley with my parents, who farmed near Clive, Alberta. I had three brothers, Don, Robert and Norman and two sisters, Ruby and Leona. My maiden name was McCutcheon. Mr. W. F. McCutcheon was my father.

We moved to Valley View sub-division in 1964. Lori, our oldest daughter was six years old at the time. She started school at River Glen County School. Bonny, our second daughter was a baby in 1964. We have lived there ever since.

Charles has a trucking business and I work at the Red Deer General Hospital as secretary to the Comptroller.

Lori, now married to Larry Keller from Joffre, graduated from Lindsay Thurber Comprehensive High School. She received her certificate from the Jacobson School of Hairdressing in Calgary, and is a hairstylist at the Mermaid Shop. Larry and Lori live in Red Deer.

Bonnie is in Grade Eleven at Lindsay Thurber Comprehensive High School. Her hobby is horses.

We have watched Valley View grow from a few scattered homes to a beautiful sub-division.

Rioux, Arthur and Jeanne

The Rioux family became Albertans in 1910. They came from Montreal and settled in Calgary. Arthur and Jeanne Rioux were both born in the province of Quebec. A son, Roger, and a daughter, Marthe, were born in Montreal where both Jeanne and Arthur lived when they married. They came west because of Arthur's poor health and because he was being offered a promotion in the C.P.R. for which he was then working. The promotion did not materialize when they arrived in Calgary, so Mr. Rioux went to work for the Rock City Tobacco Company and did so for any years, as a travelling salesman. Two years after Mr. and Mrs. Rioux had settled in Calgary their second son Henri was born. They had other children who died in their infancy. From Calgary there were several moves, namely to Saskatoon in 1916, to Edmonton in 1920, where their son Jean-Paul was born, then to Villeneuve, Alberta, in 1921, and back again to Edmonton in 1925. It was after this last move to Edmonton that the family eventually settled in Red Deer in November, 1927, on a farm about two miles north of the city. This farm was originally owned by John Petersen, who had come to this area before fences were known, and was a rancher long before doing any farming.

This farm consisted of a half section running north and south, plus a nine or ten acre parcel just off it's S.W. corner; the full length of its eastern limit bordered what is now No. 2A Highway.



Arthur Rioux family, 1928, Roger, Jeanne Rioux (mother), Martha, Adrienne (cousin), Arthur Rioux (father), Jean Paul and Henry.

These years on the farm were lean ones. The 1928 crop was a poor one because of weed infestation and 1929 yielded a better one but it was the year of the market crash and the start of the depression. It was also the year that our dad, Arthur, died, leaving mother, Marthe and the three boys to manage the farm. For city-bred folks it was all uphill and very discouraging at times. However, there were also good times. We were surrounded by wonderful friends and neighbours who greatly helped to ease the grief and hardships of those first years, and made the depression years much more bearable. Among our many friends, needless to say, were the Roths, the De-Palmes, the Noberts, the Lerouges and many, many more, and among our neighbours, we remember Mike Davis, the Glassons, the Westons, Henry Hart and family, the Excels and their old, old Edison gramophone that played like charmed instrument, and so many more we can't begin naming them.

There were glorious summers too, enjoyable community, parish and family picnics, outings at Sylvan Lake on Sundays, as well as Saturday night dances in the homes or at the lake. The winters were equally enjoyable; skating up the Red Deer river Sunday afternoon, lunching at a friend's, and letting the frozen river carry us back again, or skating on sloughs around the district, and the many unforgettable house parties, the return home at night very often by means of horses and sleigh.

Roger, Marthe and Henri sang in the Sacred Heart Parish choir. Henri was also active with musical and singing groups. Aaround them was the Roth

orchestra, with whom he played the violin, to pinch hit occasionally for Jack, the regular violinist. Those were memorable days as we travelled around the district for the Friday night dances.

Many events dotted our life in Red Deer and we still recall them when we meet old friends, but historically they wouldn't have too much weight if written down. There is a storm we can recall in the year 1930 or 1931, which is quite different from most storms. During an autumn night it rained heavily, the temperature was rather low and the wind quite strong, when suddenly we heard many weights falling on the roof from time to time. We were quite puzzled about that until we looked out, and in spite of the heavy rain, the wind and the deep darkness we were able to distinguish all the trees in front of our house broken in two and long icicles growing by the minute in a slanting direction along the roof of the front porch. The next morning we had to clear out all the broken tops of the many trees we had in front of our house and did not enjoy the sight at all, as it was rather early in the season.

Winters were also more severe in those years, temperatures ranging between -50 and -60 were a common occurrence. We also had our share of blizzards, and one in particular comes to mind when the road from the house to the highway was completely blocked by snowdrifts to almost twice the height of the car and sleigh, and they had to be dug out by shovel.

Farming became more difficult as the depression continued on until 1936. In October of that year we decided to leave the farm. Henri went to work in Edmonton for an automobile battery company and service station. Transferred to Calgary in 1938, he enlisted in 1942 in the Canadian Army and was sent overseas in 1943. Upon his return hom in 1946 he married Helen Roth of Red Deer, and is now in retirement in Edmonton.

Marthe, who had been attending the Assumption Academy in Edmonton when we moved to Red Deer, later joined the order of the Sisters of Assumption in 1932 and became a high school teacher in many of their schools and convents in Alberta and Saskatchewan. She is now retired and resides in Edmonton.

Roger remained single, and stayed with mother to look after her during her last years. After working here and there he spent thirteen years working for the Oblate Fathers at the federally owned Residential School for Indians in Hobbema, Alberta. Roger had been retired for a number of years now and is living in Edmonton.

Our mother, Jeanne, died in March, 1947, a year after Henri returned from overseas service in the war.

Jean-Paul completed his grade XII in Edmonton,

worked for the provincial government until the war broke out when he enlisted in the R.C.A.F. He spent most of his service years in Goose Bay and Gander. In 1944, while still in the R.C.A.F., he married Dovilda Trepanier from Castor, Alberta. They were married in Calgary and upon retiring from the Services, Jean-Paul joined the C.N.R. His first appointment was in Montreal and it lasted for several years. Then he was transferred to Edmonton where they lived until 1966. Then the company moved him to Vancouver where he later retired. He died in September, 1979, following a heart attack at the age of fifty-nine.

Robson, George and Fanny by Edith (Robson) Kerr

Mr. and Mrs. George Robson and daughters, Edith and Violet, came to the Crossroads district, October 1st, 1919. They made their home about one and one-half miles due north of the Crossroads school. They farmed there till 1928. Mom was known as Fanny to her friends and neighbors.

Their son, Russel, joined them after his return from World War I. He loved the prairies and the friends he had grown up with so returned to Vulcan to live. Later, he married Violet Carruthers of Vulcan. They have two daughters, Leta and Lorna, who are married and have families of their own. Russel passed away some years ago.

My sister, Violet Carson, now widowed lives in Calgary. Her husband, Charlie, taught school for thirty years. They had a son, Donnie, who passed away some time ago, and a daughter, Janie, who is married. Janie and Dave have three daughters, Darcy, Cory, and Josie. They are living in Victoria, B.C.

I, Edith Kerr, have two sons, George and Bob, who are both married. Bob and Carol have three daughters, Karen, Lori and Debbie. They live in Qualicum Beach, B.C. My husband, P. Kerr, passed away in February, 1946. Our second son, George, married Loretta. They have a son, Carter and live in Red Deer, where I also reside.

Coming to live up here from the prairies at Vulcan, was a big change. Everything was so fascinating and beautiful. The country had so many trees and bush throughout and there seemed to be no wind. There was an abundance of wild fruits in the summer and plenty of wild game in the winter. We had prairie chicken, grouse, Hungarian partridge and cottontail rabbit along with good fishing. My how things have changed with progress. In those days we were thankful when the old Edmonton Trail was gravelled. Though this meant the horses had to be shod. Our Dad, being a blacksmith, handled this situation very well.

Soon after moving up here the Herd Law went into effect. Cattle had been allowed to roam at will and little or no fencing had been done as yet.

The teachers and pupils had Christmas concerts with plays, etc. at the Crossroads school. Chicken suppers, card games and social evenings were held in the homes of neighbors, who had larger homes. If music was needed for dancing, it was supplied by talented neighbors, who had pianos, organs, violins and other musical instruments. Among those who did, were Mr. and Mrs. Harold Rogers, Fred Lossie and his daughter Ladora (Biddy), Shorty Lossie and Tom, a sidekick of his. There were others I can't remember. A late thanks to all for the enjoyable times we had. The children came with their parents and the ladies brought lunch.

Some of our earliest close neighbors were the Lossies, Vickers, Bob Murrays, Philips, Pomerleaus, Plums, Nashs, Heywoods, Landrys, Fletts, Hazletts, Latams, Blakelys, Edgars, Milnes, Wrights, Dempsters, Rogers Sr., Roger Jr., Comis, Federers, Neilsons, Harts, Richardsons, Glassons, and Bradburys.

Among the many teachers, I remember Miss Maddison, Miss Custance, Miss Bell, Miss Reid, Miss Russel (her father was a candy maker in Red Deer), Mr. Gibson and Mabel Maxwell, now Mrs. Nash. The classes ran from grade one to eight inclusive, with a bit of grade nine pushed in. Attendance varied from about 16 to 22 pupils. Most teachers boarded at homes in the district. They, like the pupils, rode horseback, drove, or more often walked to school. Who ever did the janitor work at the school had to supply the drinking water, and the horses were taken to the nearest farm for a drink at noon.

As we say "those were the good old days" in some ways and very rough in others. Cash was scarce but we all worked hard as help was hard to find.

Rogers, Arthur and Carrie by Catherine Titchener

Arthur Rogers moved to Alberta from the Burlington area in Weaner County, State of Iowa, U.S.A. in 1907. They brought with them all the farm implements they had used in Iowa. They settled at Red Deer on a farm just three miles north and west of the turn on the Sylvan Lake road.

They farmed the 160 acres on the home place and later acquired an additional 160 acres near Sylvan Lake, known as the "5th Meridian".

Arthur and Carrie, his second wife, whom he married before he left the States, managed to acquire a herd of purebred Holstein cattle. They were very proud of their cattle.

Through hard work and initiative they managed a

successful farm life, which lead Arthur into such endeavors as auctioneering and Reeve of the district.

They built a large 13 room, modern home on a 19 acre parcel of land just across the road from the old home place in about 1915. Harold took over the farming of the home place.

The members of the entire family making the move to Canada were, his daughter, Sarah Jane (Sadie) and Harold Arthur, who at that time were 18 and 14 respectively. Sadie worked at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Mitchener, whose son, Roland, later was to become a well known member of Parliament.

Sadie married Gus Dahl, who at that time was a lath and plaster worker. He served in the army in World War I, for a period of four years. After returning home, he upgraded himself to Stationary Engineer. Sadie and Gus moved to Calgary where he was later employed at the sanitarium near Bowness in west Calgary.

Harold married Catherine (Katie) Whittaker of Calgary on November 20, 1917. They farmed the home place as well as 160 acres, three quarters of a mile away. This land bordered on the old Woods-worth farm to the north and the Sylvan Lake road on the west.

Harold and Katie had three daughters, Catherine, Eileen and Murriel. They all attended Crossroads school, from 1925 to 1941.

Harold was a machinist at heart and had his own tractor and threshing machine, which he used every fall. He threshed for all those who wished to employ his services.

During the winter season, Harold and Katie helped to supply the music for local dance parties held throughout the district. These were usually held on a Friday night, with Harold on the violin and Katie on the piano.

Life was simple but during the depression of the 1930's, it was somewhat confining. These years taught us a great deal, for which I have been very grateful.

Carrie Rogers passed away at the age of 66 years, about 1938, from a heart attack. Arthur Rogers passed away at 72 years in 1939, from stomach cancer.

In 1944, Harold and Katie sold the home farm and moved to Sidney, B.C. on Vancouver Island. They purchased a house and lot and were very happy there; Harold worked in the local lumber yard as a grader, while Katie raised the lovely flowers and fruit trees.

Harold passed away on January 6, 1958 after a four year bout with a coronary problem at 64 years.

Katie continued to live at their home for another year, but due to the continued loss of eye sight, she

was forced to go to live with youngest daughter, Murriel, in Victoria. Here she remained for 14 years. She then decided to join her oldest daughter, Catherine, and her husband, who reside in Prince George in central B.C.

Except for blindness caused by a disease known as retinitis rigormortis, Katie enjoys very good health at the age of 89 years.

Roth, Andrew and Margaret

I, Andrew Roth, was born March 16, 1911, at Bow Island, Alberta. No sterile hospital ward, no doctor, no nurse, instead; a shanty on the wind swept prairie, a neighbor woman or relative the only attendant.

My parents, though of German descent, were settled in southern Ukraine, near the Black Sea, where four or five generations lived before them. The climate, quality of soil and productivity equalled if not exceeded the land of southern Ontario, the Fraser or Okanagan Valleys. They owned a small farm and were doing quite well, but the political and social ferment were a worry for them. The peace, freedom and justice, he found threatened, he hoped to find in the land he had chosen — Canada. What an experience it must have been when he landed in Bow Island, a prairie region, bare, dry, hot, with day after day of wind.

In 1910, the parents and five children were reunited after a six thousand mile journey. In spite of the inhospitality of the land, they proceeded to settle. Dad purchased the necessary implements, some horses and a few farm animals and in 1911, they filed on a homestead. A bonafide homesteader could purchase another quarter of land for a minimal price. These two quarters and another two, Dad purchased from neighbours, made up the section of land he farmed for the next sixteen years. During this span of years, two or three were good crops, several were fair, but there were more failures than successes. The last straw was the crop of 1926 when 400 bushels of seed produced 500 bushels of grain. What dad had been considering for several years, became conviction, we would have to move.

The search for a new land covered an area from High River south of Calgary, to about the same distance north of Edmonton. We rented a farm fifteen miles south of Clive and about twenty miles due east of Red Deer. Formerly known as the Bill Ross farm it consisted of a section and a half of rolling but productive land. Less than half of it under cultivation. There were many small patches of brush and ponds, what a change from the treeless, arid homestead we had left.

In order to move before the winter set in, Dad accepted the only offer he had received. At that time

the government supplied free transportation for settlers who willed to leave. In the first week of November, 1926, we moved out with twenty-one head of horses, sixteen head of cattle including a runty bull, a few pigs and some chickens. The rest of the move included some well-worn, horse-drawn implements, household effects and five hundred dollars in cash. We landed in Clive on November the 5th. Equipment and livestock were unloaded and we proceeded to drive the cattle and horses on foot to the new home fifteen miles away.

At the new farm, money was scarce but work was plentiful. The variety of jobs to be done were unending; brush to cut, roots to pick, fences to build, and firewood to get. Then there were the seasonal tasks of pitching and stacking hay and stooking the grain. Being small for my age it was hard for me to hold up my end and the folks decided I should go back to school, but like the prairie school, Satinwood only taught grade eight. My older sister had obtained a job at the Clive Hotel, and I was hired there as a kitchen flunky. Here I would work for my room and board to obtain my high school. This only lasted three days as the hotel changed hands and my sister and I were both back home.

The social life of the community, like all farming areas, was a winter project. Spring and summer were much too busy for socializing. On the prairie, Dad's relatives and some of the neighbors got together for an evening of singing, but here they were alone. They must have missed this very much. Mother and Dad had both sung in choirs in the old country, Dad a clear, strong tenor and Mother sang soprano. Most of us kids could sing and occasionally we got together for a singsong. We all were fond of music, we had a radio that was battery operated, so was used sparingly. A married sister had a vintage gramophone in her home and we would go there to listen to records. My older brother, Jack, ordered a three-quarter size metal violin from a mail order house and before long was picking up a few tunes with which he was familiar. At a farm sale, Dad put a two-dollar bid on an old pedal organ and brought it home. It took a lot of fixing to get the mouse chewed organ working again. Soon, Jack on his seven dollar violin and myself on the two dollar organ were coaxing tunes out of them. With no one to teach us it took many evenings, but the efforts were later rewarding. In the winter of 1929 or 30, our musical ability found an outlet. Cards would take up the early part of the evening at the usual house parties, with dancing for several hours after whenever music was available. We were asked to play at the home of Mr. and Mrs. K. Lakeman, the crowd seemed satisfied, and we were invited to the next get-together. We played several more times that



Jack Roth with his first full size violin.

winter. I don't recall any pay but likely two or three dollars were collected.

The first time we played in public was at Haynes Community Hall, after the Christmas concert. The crowd in no hurry to go home asked us to play a few numbers so they could dance. We obliged with a few that turned into three hours. A silver collection brought in nine dollars. To surprise our parents we placed the bills and some silver on a newspaper on the kitchen table. dad always up early to stoke the furnace and light the kitchen stove, crumpled the newspaper and was about to light a match to it when he noticed the bills in it. In 1929-30, one sure couldn't afford to light the fire with dollar bills.

During that same winter, we played several more times at Haynes. Our band became three pieces when brother, George, began beating the drums. George played with us for several years and then younger brother, Ben, took over. The little orchestra eventually became six pieces, all family members, with Helen on guitar and Cathrine on the piano. I took up the banjo. Johnny Morten, played saxophone in a four piece band and I made up my mind that I could master it. Later that same winter, brother George and brother-in-law, Les, went to Pigeon Lake where they picked up 500 pounds of fish from the natives which we peddled in Haynes, Alix, Delbourne and half-way to Calgary. We continued on to Calgary and I came home with a saxophone. Later, brother Ralph, took over the banjo, he was not nine years old when we

took him along. We played about twelve years as a family group. Travelling in a thirty-five miles radius of Red Deer, we played in many halls and schools. This list covers our activities: Hayes, Clive, Tees, Alix Stampede (twice), Nevis, Westling, Delbourne, Great Bend, Elnora, Lousanna, Spruceville, Lincoln, Woodmen of Amercia Lacombe, U.F.A. or Blindman Hall, Poplar Ridge, Bentley, Rimbey, Forsee, Young Peoples, Central, Liberty, Blackfalds, Ridgewood, Penhold, Divide, Benalto Stampede (several times), Pine Lake for two summers. We also played in many school houses like Clearview, Springvale, Willowdale, Aberdeen, Cumberland, Loyalty, Hillsdown, Valley Centre, Norma, Shady Nook and a half dozen barn dances. Our orchestra days were happy care-free days, but they were brought sadly to an end for a time, with the death of Cathrine. As the sadness of her passing gave way to every day living, it was decided that Rose who had been taking piano lessons would take over. After a few practices, our band was back to playing the old time dances like the one-step, two-step, four-step and seven-step. We also played the French Minuet, Spanish waltz, schoteez, polka, waltz, quadrille, old time waltz, fox trot, the slow waltz and of course the square dances.



Roth Orchestra. Back row L. to R.: Jack, Katie, Andrew, Helen, Henry Rioux. Front row: Ralph and Ben.

One occasion that comes to mind was the night we put on a dance at the Divide Hall. We made the lunch at home, and we borrowed a wash boiler from a family that lived at the bottom of the hill. We filled it half full of water and placed it on the pot-bellied stove in the hall. About eleven-thirty, it was spiked with a pound of coffee. Lunch and coffee were served and after the dance ended we dumped the left over coffee and found a bar of P & G soap stuck to the bottom of the boiler. We never heard of any casualties.

Sandy Cove Hotel at Pine Lake holds memories too. On our first booking, we were surprised to see the owner, Mr. Dancy, moving about the room with a baseball bat, apparently some of the crowds had been getting out of hand.

We played all that summer season and were booked for the next season. The next year on the 24th of May, we arrived late, as a showery day had turned the roads to mud. There was a large crowd waiting for us and horns blazed away when we arrived. The Sandy Cove had a dance floor mounted on cork and was claimed to be one of the best floors in the country. Al Sirous was the floor manager, a big, good-natured man. He and his wife operated the store at the north end of the lake. They were a big help in promoting our little orchestra.

When the family band broke up, I played with several groups. By this time, I was married with two little boys and a girl around. This meant that my wife, Margaret, spent many nights alone. To get the message across, she finally hid my saxophone. That was the end of my playing for dances.

During the time the orchestra was playing, we had remained at the Ross farm for two, three year periods. Dad could have bought that farm, but Dad and Mother wanted their young, Catholic family to be closer to Church and in a better religious environment. Dad bought three-quarters in the Crossroads district on the outskirts of Red Deer in 1929. Our new farm had no buildings, no well, and practically no fences that would hold livestock. There were 90 acres cultivated. In 1932, Dad managed to have a well drilled by Telning, a house, barn and graineries erected by a carpenter, named MacFall. The fences had been repaired and some feed put up, and the Ross farm was given up. Once again we moved the household effects, the machinery, a few pigs, some chickens and ninety-two head of cattle.

The new farm was a repetition of our experience on the Ross farm — no end in sight when it came to work. Brushing was a priority and the axes arrayed in threes and fours were kept shiny. Fencing tools were always at hand, and root picking became a pastime.

Sunday was always set aside for church in the morning, rest and ball games or practicing our music in the afternoon. Dad was a member of the farm organizations. Mother belonged to the C.W.S. Older brother, Jack and I joined the Sacred Heart Choir in 1934. I still sing in the tenor section.

I lived with my parents till I was past thirty. In 1941, Margaret and I were married on November 5th. Margaret's family had also left Russia during the Revolution. They had been deported to Siberia but because of their German citizenship, they managed to regain their freedom and return to Germany. She was

born in a concentration camp in Siberia. Living in the city of Danzig, they heard of the promised land — Canada, and came to live with relatives in the Coronation area in 1930. In Margaret's family, there are nine girls and three boys, who are all living. Her mother passed away about six years ago in 1974. Her dad, now 85, is in poor health in the Coronation Hospital.

Margaret and I farmed for some time on a quarter of Dad's land, which he had promised me in 1929, if I stayed and helped him. With a growing family, one quarter of rented land was no match for supporting them. With this in mind, we started Midget Delivery and a second-hand store. A few years before going out of business, with the help of sister-in-law, Anne, we opened a church goods store. Anne retired last year and brother-in-law, Andy Mooney, took over. The two of us try to keep the little store going. We sold our farm in 1974 and bought a house. It is situated across the alley from the church, where we were married and our children were baptized.

We had eight children, four boys and four girls. Edward worked as a driller for the oil companies. Michael and wife Gerrie live on a small farm north of Lacombe. He is a councilor for the County of Lacombe. Sheila married Richard Gauthier, they live in Coleville, Sask. Sheila and Richard have three children. Cathrine lives at home. Greg and Yolande live on our old farm, they have two children. Mary Jane married Les Hamilton, they had one daughter, Lana, before they were divorced. Margaret Rose married George Corman. They are presently in Singapore, where he is employed by Gulf Oil. They have two children. Ronnie is at home. Lana, Mary's daughter lives with us, she is nine years old. Of all our children only two reside outside of Alberta.

Roth, Frances Helen (Sister Desales)

I am the daughter of Bernhard Roth and Helen (Huhn). I am the seventh child in a family of thirteen, the second oldest girl. A baby girl also named Frances, was born in 1909 and died in 1910.

I was born and lived in Southern Alberta until I was thirteen years of age. I moved with my family to a rented farm in East Central Alberta on November 7th, 1927. We, my four brothers and myself attended Satinwood School. This school was about three and a half miles south and west of our farm.

In January of 1929, I left home to enter the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Edmonton. Due to a lack of sight, I was unable to continue my education.

After finishing my religious training, I spent much time in our Mission Convents in North Edmonton, Wetaskiwin, Galahad, Killam, Rimbey and St.

Brides, all in Central Alberta. I spent many years in our Hospitals doing Dietary work.

In 1958, I prepared through various courses for kindergarten work. I remained in this field for fifteen years. In 1976, I spent a year doing social work, visiting the sick and aged in a neighboring Parish and Hospital.

In January of 1977, I was transferred to Kelowna, B.C., where I am teaching religion to the second graders. I am also engaged in various choir groups.

All through the years I have loved and enjoyed my work finding it challenging, interesting and very rewarding.

Rioux (Roth), Helen

I came to this district with my parents in 1932, where I attended St. Joseph's Convent for two and a half years. I was a member of a junior high school sodality and sang in the girls' choir. My teachers were Sister Gabriel, Sister Denise and Sister Joseph-Marie.

At the age of thirteen I played guitar in the family orchestra, which had been playing together for several years before. This experience stands out as being one of the highlights of my life in this community. It was not only our main source of entertainment, but it taught us that pulling together was the way to accomplish things. Practice nights were sometimes a pleasure, sometimes an inconvenience, but we learned it was necessary to succeed. Succeeding as an orchestra gave us confidence in ourselves, and was to help us in later years. I finally had to give up playing due to ill health, and my younger brother Ralph switched from the banjo to the big base fiddle which eliminated the need for the guitar. The others continued to play in other bands for some time. The one sad interruption during these years was the death of my sister Katie, she played piano. None of us wanted to carry on without her, so all our dated were cancelled. After receiving many requests from people living in places where we had played, who wanted us to reorganize, we decided to start over again and my younger sister Rosemary played the piano.

By this time my oldest brother Joe's wife, Elizabeth, had passed away after Frank's birth. We cared for him from infancy until he was four years old at which time Joe married Dorothy Cheshier, and Frank went home to live with his parents. They now live on the Burnt Lake Trail.

My sister Rosemary and I started a youth group in our Scared Heart Parish in Red Deer and among other things we organized a lawn tennis court on the church grounds. Many young couples who met in this group are still living in Red Deer or its surrounding district.

In my late teens I became an active member of the CWL and held office at one point. I was also one of the earlier members of the Red Deer Consumers' Co-Op store and worked as a clerk and cashier for two years. I became a Charter Member of the Red Deer Credit Union which has become most successful.

I met Henri Rioux of this district whose family lived on a farm near our place when I was thirteen. He was to become my husband thirteen years later. Those years were interrupted by the depression in the thirties when Henri and his family gave up the farm and moved to Edmonton where Henri worked until his transfer to Calgary. He enlisted in the Army in 1942 and went overseas with the Sherbrooke Fusiliers, as a radio technician maintaining radios for a tank regiment.

He returned to Canada in February, 1946 and we were married in June of the same year. We lived in Calgary where Henri operated a radio relay transmitting station for the Army until his health failed and we bought and moved to a farm at Bonnyville, Alberta. We lived there for six years but after three years of drought we were forced to sell out and look elsewhere for a means of livelihood. We returned to Red Deer with our three eldest children where my husband opened Henry's Radio and TV Sales and Service Shop. He operated this shop for seven successful years. After Henry had spent eight months in the Aberhart Memorial TB Hospital in Edmonton, we sold our Red Deer business and moved to Edmonton where we are now retired after raising eight children.

Among the many things that stand out in my memory are the evenings we spent with friends and neighbors playing softball down behind the barn in the cow pasture. We had great fun and usually ended

the evening in the house playing music and singing. I also remember with pleasure the nights we sat around an outdoor fire roasting corn. Most evenings were spent practising our music for the many dances we were to play for. Henry played violin and often played with us. Our orchestra became a necessary source of income during the depression years.

I still remember how we loved running through the woods in the fall searching for beautifully colored autumn leaves when we were younger. Harvest and threshing time were always highlights in our family, gleaned the results of the year's work, the culmination of a successful and bountiful harvest; the huge pumpkins, dills, and vegetables of every sort, getting the potatoes stored in the basement, bringing in huge cabbages and cauliflowers. Canning fruits, vegetables, and making jams and jellies and pickles without end. Mother always managed to have enough stored in the basement to see us through until the next harvest.

Such was our life in this Crossroads district and we were happy to be a part of it.

Paetz (Roth), Rosemary

I am the youngest of the family, and cannot remember a lot of things the older ones can, but I do call to mind the long summer evenings when the air was heavy with the pungent smells of an abundant harvest, and the excitement that threshing time brought into our home, it was a very special time of year.

One incident I remember well in my childhood was the year we moved to the Red Deer district. Since I was the youngest, Mother and Dad took me and brother Ralph with them, when the building of our home there was begun. My two older brothers Andrew and Jack and the best carpenter in Red Deer was hired, and together with my father, our home finally took shape.

It was a beautiful summer in which I remember the many times we picked wild strawberries and raspberries to be enjoyed later with cream for dessert. We lived in a bunk house all that summer until the house was completed.

Life on a farm, especially one where land is still unbroken is never dull. There were always more things to do, than there were hours in the day to do them, and this is how we grew into adulthood, appreciating the value of work and the dignity we brought to it, by doing each chore as we came to it and doing it well.

After the war I met the man I was to marry, Henry Theodore Paetz in Red Deer, but he was working in Drumheller, and so after our wedding we made our



Rioux family, L. to R., back row: Tony, Arthur, Gerry, Jean Paul, Bernard. Front row: Therese, Helen, Yvonne, Henry, and Jeanne.

home there for twenty-four years, when we left and moved to Edmonton.

Our years in Drumheller were satisfying and happy ones. Nine healthy youngsters were born of this union, and even though some years were lean, we always had enough to eat, and clothes on our backs, and enough to enjoy life with our family.

As the children grew older, our chief source of entertainment was to search out the history in story and fossil of our dearly loved historic Drumheller area. The children could never wait for the hills to dry out, and so first thing in the spring they'd be trudging through the mud, packs on their backs, looking for the many interesting things in that valley. And find them they did! There are dinosaur teeth and bones, petrified wood, dinosaur skeletons and leaf imprints to mention only a few, which I still enjoy going through occasionally since they carry within them so much of the pain and joy, the happiness and the frustrations that a family unit of eleven people can go through.

All but one of this family are grown up now, Amy my youngest just turned fourteen. My oldest daughter, Maureen, now thirty-two, married a service man and she lives in Toronto, Ontario, with her husband and their four children, three boys and a girl.

Mary Ann is married to Dale Wright. They own and operate two plant shops in the city, and have two lovely boys.

My oldest son, Barry, and Cathy, his wife, have their first child, a darling boy, ten months old. Barry is a second year apprentice electrician, but since he was fifteen he has earned his living with his guitar. He still plays here in the city and throughout Alberta. His wife, Cathy, is a supervisor in the Bay downtown store.

Mathew and Beverly have two beautiful boys and Matt has recently joined Metropolitan Life Ins. Co. Previous to this, he had been manager of Page and Wilson Jewelry Wholesale for some six years.

Bernard was next oldest and is the boy who was killed in the same accident that took his father in November of 1971. Matt also seriously injured in this accident, but he healed completely. A more loving and open youngster than Bernard, you could never hope to meet. He was ready as his father certainly was and so our heavenly Father called them back to him.

Bernard had the most avid interest in dinosaurs and fossils and was just two months from his sixteenth birthday when he died.

Regan was twenty-two this year and he works for a safety company here in the city; a job that carries with it a great deal of responsibility. He plans to

attend the University of Alberta this fall and take chemical engineering.

Kevin is twenty-one and for the past three years he has lived in New York, where he was in school of formation with the Focolare (a renewal movement within our church). He has also attended Queens University for two years but he is coming home to finish at the U. of A. We are all looking forward to his homecoming.

Susan is nineteen and has just finished project Katimivik, a work project sponsored by the federal government for young people across Canada. They are given many different job experiences, and learn to live and get along with others.

Paul is fourteen and has just passed into grade nine, a good student, and plays flute and piccolo with the school band.

Our life in Drumheller was filled with more than dinosaurs. Ted (as I called him) and I joined the C.Y.O. shortly after we were married and there were plays, meetings, social events, and song groups that we took an active part in. Ted became a Scout Master and later on I joined the C.W.L. and served my term as secretary.

Because of Ted's interest in music, he joined a male voice choir and eventually became director of the Sweet Adelines group which I also joined. He went on to become choir director for our church choir, and I took on the job as organist, which even to this day I am still doing in our parish here in Edmonton. There are many demands on my time even still, with weddings and funerals, first Communion, Confirmations, and other special events not to mention Sundays regularly.

Ted also served in the Militia for twenty years or more. He was Secretary for the Credit Union and later served many years as director. He was a Grand Knight in the Knights of Columbus, and was a third order member. He also served on the original board of members that brought the separate school to Drumheller.

Our family had not been without it's set backs, but I am proud of it's accomplishments and it has been a rewarding career.

Donnelly (Roth), Justine

I am the oldest daughter of the Bernhard and Helen Roth Family of fourteen children. There are twelve of us still living.

I was married to Lester Maller before the family moved from Haynes to the Crossroads district. We made many trips to Red Deer to visit and often enjoyed our favorite past-time, listening to the Family Orchestra practising for their next date. However, I guess one can get too much of even a good thing.

My Dad often said he hoped some day to build a little house out behind the barn for some peace and quiet.

I remember one winter we were taking a hog to the market in Red Deer for some much needed cash. There was a heavy snow fall. The ditches and the roads were level. Our horses had gotten too far to one side and down into the ditch they went. They sank to the level of their backs. I was sure that "this little pig" would never get to market. However, Les got them out and we were on our way again. A few miles east of Red Deer we met someone pulling a load of cord wood with a team of mules. As mules will do, one of them decided it had had enough and sat down. Les did what he could to help coax this mule on to his feet again. We finally had to go into a field to get around him and get going again. We got that 225 pound bacon hog to market, for all of the 2½ cents per pound.

Les and I lived on the old Tom Ross farm south of Haynes. Later we moved back to his parents place to help them with the farm work.

We had seven children, four girls, Arlene, Helen, Kathrine, Alice and three boys, Vern, Henry and Leo. Henry passed away at 21 years with a cerebral hemorrhage.

After Les' untimely death in 1935, I moved to Red Deer to be closer to my parents.

I have 23 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Later, I married Albert Donnelly of Red Deer and acquired a few more children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. We live in Salmon Arm, B.C.

Roth, Bernard Jr. and Kathleen

In 1932 our family moved into the Crossroads district, coming from Haynes, Alberta. I had finished school at Satinwood and, here, got my first taste of real hard work. Clearing land was very hard work, but I was able to sell cord-wood in town which gave me a little pocket money for smoking and dating.

In 1943, Dad sold me one quarter and I built a small house, a barn and a chicken house. In that same year I convinced Kathleen Toal that I was the man she had been looking for. We were married in Laverna, Sask. on June 25th, 1945. Patricia Jean was born to us in July of 1946 and Rosemarie (Mikki) in February, 1948.

We milked quite a number of cows and sold the milk to the condensary and also sold hatching eggs to the Red Deer Hatchery. We might still be in the Crossroads district if it wasn't for the neighbors up the road — stealing our Christmas Turkey. We always raised our own chickens and one year we decided to raise a couple of turkeys at the same time. Well, one

of them died but the other one grow into a lovely big turkey. Late in the fall when we killed off our old hens, we killed the turkey too and hung him up in a bag in the grainery to freeze — our Christmas turkey. Imagine our surprise and disappointment when about a week before Christmas someone was in the grainery and no turkey. I was shocked — couldn't believe that anyone would steal our Christmas turkey. The neighbors had heard us bragging about raising our own Christmas turkey and had relieved us of it. They returned it a few days before Christmas, and our faith in mankind was restored — and we learned a lesson, no more bragging.

We sold our farm in the spring of 1951 to Sid Wright and then we bought a half section in the Springvale district. We sold our farm in Springvale in 1953 and moved into Red Deer, here we started the real estate business of Cross and Roth.

Our family increased to Heather, Maryellen and Bernard. After about twenty years in the real estate business we closed the doors and I worked on the switchboard at the Firehall for seven years. I'm now retired, Kay works part-time at the Red Deer Nursing Home.

Bernard is still home and works at Executive Homes, Maryellen is teaching in Provost, Alberta. Heather married Larry May and lives in Red Deer. Mikki married Bob Collis and lives in Rimbey, Alberta. Paddy married Bob Creweer and lives in Melfort, Sask.

Mooney, Andrew and Elizabeth (Roth)

My parents, Bernhard and Helen Roth, came to Canada from Russia in 1910. They settled at Nemiscan, Alberta, where I was born. In the fall of 1926, they moved to Haynes, Alberta. Then they came to Crossroads in 1931.

In 1934, I married a C.P.R. employee, Andy Mooney. In the early years of our marriage, we moved many times, to Massive, Tuttle, Empress in



The Andrew Mooney family, 1958, L. to R.: Daniel, Maureen, Michael, Margaret, Helen, Theresa, Elizabeth, Andy, Patricia, and Kevin.

Alberta and then to Leader, Sask. We spent 25 years at Leader. Andy retired as Roadmaster in 1969, when we moved to Lethbridge. We lived there for five years before coming to our present home at 5910 — 53 Avenue in Red Deer, in 1974.

Andy and I have eight children, Margaret, Maureen, Helen, Michael, Daniel, Patricia, Theresa and Kevin. All have established homes on their own.

We enjoy our sixteen grandchildren, are in good health, and are happy in our retirement.

Joseph P. and Dorothea Roth

My father Bernhard's sister, Magdelene, and three brothers: George, Jack and Joseph came to Regina, Saskatchewan, in 1907 with their mother, Elizabeth, who had been widowed a few years earlier near Odessa, Russia. They stayed in Regina for one winter.

The men worked on the C.P.R. sections and at other odd jobs they could pick up after hours. The women found work in restaurants and hotels whenever possible. In the spring of 1908, they moved to Bow Island, Alberta, and took up squatters rights as land would not be thrown open for homesteads until the spring of 1910. They put in a small crop that first year, having very little power and no implements. An eight foot disc was used to scratch up the prairie. They broadcast the flax by hand. There was a lot of moisture that year so their first crop was wonderful.

My father, Bernhard, and mother, Helen, had fourteen children altogether. Five born near Odessa, Russia: myself as the eldest, then George, Justine, Jack and Francis. Nine were born at Bow Island, Alberta. They are, from the eldest down: Andrew, Francis, Elizabeth, Bernhard, Katherine, Magdalene, Helen, Ralph, and Rosemary. To date there are twelve of us living; my infant sister, Francis, passed away in 1910, and my sister Katie, passed away at 18 years of age in 1937. We lost Father in 1953 and Mother in 1967.

Our primary reasons for leaving Russia were corruption and widespread crime. The authorities in Russia were quite often very lax and corrupt, from the policeman up to the magistrate in the highest court. A bottle of whiskey could very often get you off the hook if you murdered a man. Stealing of horses often occurred during the night. My Dad lost three horses one night by robbers gaining entry through the back of the stone wall of the barn and opening a hole large enough to take the horses through. Barn doors were always locked at night and vicious dogs tied in front of the barn door to keep robbers out. Pigs were often stolen by using any alcohol and mixing it with bran to form a soft ball and feeding that to the hogs. A drunk hog makes no noise

so you can load him like a sack of wheat. All the machinery used on any given day had to be loaded and hauled to the field and then reloaded and hauled home every night as it would be stolen by morning.

Dad could see trouble ahead as could many others and this proved to be quite correct!

There was a lot of talk amongst the people about the land in this far away Canada. You could get 160 acres for \$10.00 to homestead and the pre-emption on another 160 acres. After you had been there for five years, taken out citizenship, and proved up for pre-emption you could pay \$500.00 to become the owner of a total of 320 acres. This looked mighty good when you considered that in Russia we didn't have a big enough place to set down a Chair!

To immigrate to Canada, you had to pay your passage plus \$250.00 for each person over the age of 21 as required by the Canadian Government before you could enter Canada. That was considered sufficient proof that you had the ability and will power to make a go of it in this country. Many didn't have the required additional money per adult so many of the more fortunate ones would help by staking them the \$250.00. This \$250.00 was just loaned to an immigrant until he had satisfied the authorities that he had the money and then he returned it to the lender, as they knew willingness and hard work would soon get them started.

My family and I started our trip in January of 1910, having many difficulties to hold us up. We had our medicals on leaving the border of Russia. It was found that Dad and I had Trachoma of the eyes which required an operation plus six weeks in quarantine. We finally got going again and got as far as Liverpool, England, where we were quarantined again. With the five children in the family it was hard to get going as we were not all well at the same time. Mother and Dad finally decided that Mother and our infant sister, Francis would stay behind for a time until Francis' health improved as she had the measles. Dad would come on with the rest of the family, myself, eight years old; George, six; Justine, four; and Jack, three. But fortune was not with us and once more we landed in quarantine at the mouth of the St. Lawrence River. We were transferred off the big liner to a sternwheeler out in the ocean and taken to the Island.

An amusing incident happened at this time, Dad had loaned five different people \$250.00 to get into Canada, for which no agreement was made other than the verbal one. A problem came up as we were being transferred to the stern-wheeler, for no one had thought beforehand of the money they had borrowed and how they would get it back to Dad. At the last moment, one of the men yelled down to Dad from the

liner and they arranged for the man to collect all the money from the rest of the men and meet him in Regina, Saskatchewan, off the immigration train. They, of course, hadn't realized that there were several of these trains every 24 hours. As it turned out the poor man met every train for a ten day period! Finally, Dad stepped off the train and the man was able to return all the money that the five people had borrowed. There was a tired but honest man!

We got to Bow Island, Alberta, on the 10th of May, 1910. Mother came a week later with baby Francis who was in a very weak and run-down condition. She died three days later.

Dad, being a little luckier than most, had quite a little money so was able to buy all his machinery and stock which included such items as binder, a seed drill, a plow, a disc, a wagon, a democrat, harrows, five horses, two cows, a pig, and a dozen or so chickens.

As we farmed in that very dry country, we found that the machinery built by the machine companies did not fit the conditions. The machinery would pulverise the ground too much and the high winds would blow it away. People, having no money, had to devise and build their own machinery in a lot of cases.

Dad had given Jack and me ten acres of land to plant corn in, which was another experiment. The planting was fine, no problem there, but Russian thistles were a big problem so we had to devise a means of keeping the land between the rows clean. A little rod weeder was required. Being mechanically minded, I built a little rod weeder about 30 inches wide with two handles on the back to guide it. A horse was hitched to the front to pull it with someone riding the horse to guide it. This little machine proved very effective in killing the Russian thistle that grew by the millions. I went on to invent a larger stationary rod weeder pulled by four or six horses. I built it out of material that could be found in old discarded implements. Upright standards were built out of old plow shares that carried the rod below. The land side of the share was knocked off and about four inches were bent at right angles. Two holes were drilled at the bent angle and bolted to a 6" x 6" timber at the top. Holes were drilled in the share at the other end so the rod could be threaded through to the other end using a nut at each end to hold it in place. A V-shaped frame was added to the top and extended back about fourteen feet. A sliding seat was attached on top of the frame with brackets so it would slide. The operator would sit on the seat sideways so if he had to get off fast because of a bump, he could do so safely. He would slide forward for more weight and penetration into the ground or back for less weight in loose

soil. Penetration didn't need to be more than two inches. The hitch for the horses to pull, it was simply a log-chain thrown around the 6" x 6" timber at two points near the outside edges, brought forward in a V with a clevis and double tree where the horses were hooked on. The one thing we didn't like about this operation was that when you hit a solid rock you knew for sure it would jar the folks in the old country.

We went to homestead in the spring of 1911 and built our first lumber shack on the prairie. By now, Dad's money was all gone.

The year 1911 proved to be a fairly wet, cold year and our crop froze. From then on, for the next good many years, Dad worked whenever he could find a job to keep his family in what little food and clothing they needed. I was made number one farmer with Dad coming home every weekend whenever possible. The years 1912 and 1913 were fair crop years, 1914 being one of the driest we ever saw. The years 1915 to 1917 were very good years. In 1917, we only had half a crop but because the First World War had been raging, we made more money than a good full crop in ordinary years. Until 1926, about one out of five years were fair to good.

By that time the family were well grown up and were thoroughly disgusted with the prairies so were willing to make another start somewhere else.

That's how we came to settle in the Red Deer district in 1926, at Haynes. We rented a section and a half, partly broke and carried on from there. There were a lot of hard years and some very good years and we survived. I rented another half section in the spring of 1928 and had a very nice crop until I was hailed out on August 11. That was the first hailstone Victor Hoppis had seen in that district for the 38 years that he'd lived there.

We brought all our equipment, stock and supplies from southern Alberta by boxcar. We had four carloads of settler's effects because the government was paying most of the freight at that time to help settlers who were pulling out of the dry belt. We were able to move all our possessions.

My stock brand was JP on the left hip.

I also bought a steam threshing outfit which was the pride and joy of the whole family because it provided jobs for us in southern Alberta. Threshing runs were long there because all the crops were stacked. Once stacked, threshing could be carried on because they were safe from the weather. Runs were anywhere from thirty-five to forty days long. We also had a cook house and bunk house on wheels for the men. I never used the steamer after I came to Haynes, although I had a thirty day permit. I could not get either of my two engineers away from southern Alberta as the year after we left they had the best crop

that country had ever seen and the engineers were required to stay where they were.

Dad then bought our first 15-30 International so we went threshing with it. The old Waterloo Separator was hard to keep together. I ran it with a gas engine. It was an awful let-down because the gas engines of that size did not have sufficient power.



Joseph Roth family, front row L. to R.: Jack, Dorothy, Joe, Marie. Second row: Lynn, Phil and Frank. Third row: Judy, Lorne, Joe, Garth and Carl.

I was married on the 28th day of January, 1923 to Elizabeth Fix of Formost. My home town was Nemaskam. Of that union there were four children, the oldest — Jack, then Marie, Philip and Frank. Elizabeth passed away in 1934 in the Red Deer Hospital, eleven days after Frank was born. I was a widower for the next four years, and then married my present wife, Dorothea Cheshire of Clive in 1938. Of that union, we had six children. Joe was born in Red Deer Hospital while we still resided in Haynes. In the spring of 1940, we moved to the Poplar Ridge district of Red Deer, to the old Bill Hunt place where our second child, Carl, was born. We then moved to our present home in the fall of 1945, where the rest of the children: Lawrence, Lynn, Garth and Judy were born. Our home is situated exactly four miles west from Red Deer city center and one-half mile from the city limits.

Katherine Lynn, the second daughter of Joseph P. Roth, graduated from the University of Alberta in 1974. She taught school at Spruceview, Alberta for two years. In 1975, Lynn was married to Keith Woffindin of Mirror, Alberta. Lynn and Keith and baby daughter, April Ann, reside on the family farm north of Alix.

Judy Ann, the youngest of the family lived at home while working at Horne and Pitfield Ltd. In the spring of 1976, she married Donald Young of Red

Deer. That fall, Judy started work at the Red Deer Regional Hospital as Dietary Aid. She continued there until the summer of 1978, when their first child, Nathan John Roth, was born. Their second child, Crystal Dawn, was born in the spring of 1980. The family resides in Red Deer where Judy is a housewife and mother and Donald works for the City Fire Department.

Garth William (Gus), youngest son of Joe and Dorothea Roth, graduated from the vocational high school in 1970. He then began apprenticing as an insulator in Calgary.

Gus married Debbie Michener, on October 5, 1973. Debbie was also born in the Red Deer area. They reside in Calgary where Gus completed his apprenticeship as an insulator. During this time Debbie was employed as a psychiatric nurse at the Foothills Hospital.

In May, 1978, they returned to Red Deer, where Gus began to work at the Alberta Gas Ethylene plant at Joffre.

On June 23, 1978, a baby girl, Neely Dawn, became the third member of the G. W. Roth family.

Lorne S. is the third son of Joseph and Dorothea Roth (Submitted by Lorne Roth)

In 1962, I decided I was wasting my time in school, I wasn't doing well and I wanted to quit. My cousin, Dale, was joining the Navy and convinced me to enlist. It was nine months after I first applied before I was accepted, because Dad didn't have any proof of Canadian Citizenship.

I didn't really waste the nine months waiting period. I started dating a girl called Jean MacDonald, who had moved onto an acreage in the Shady Nook District. I first took her out on a bet I made with Leonard Wright. I guess I lost the bet because I was supposed to take her out once and not again but we became a thing, and we dated on and off for close on to three years.

I worked for Mike's Light Oilfield Hauling from the time I was thirteen until I joined the Navy. When I left the Navy in April of 1964, I went back to work for Mike and in September I made the decision that I didn't want to be a truck driver for the rest of my life. I went back to the Red Deer Vocational High School to get my grade twelve and some electrical training.

Jean and I got married in 1964, and I continued to go to school. We were really living on a shoe string, both being too proud to ask for any financial help from our families. The highlight of our week at that time was when Dave Carrier came over with a case of beer and his guitar and we sang all night. Jean would go to bed and Dave and I would sit up until dawn chewing the fat. When the sun came up we would go

golfing before the course was open so that we wouldn't have to pay.

During this time, we lived in the city of Red Deer, in my Uncle Ben and Aunt Kay's basement suite.

Our daughter, Tracy, was born in the summer of 1965 and in March of 1966, I finished school and started working for A.G.T. as a lineman in Stettler. We lived in Stettler for nine years and during that time we made many good friends there.

Our son, Richard was born in 1968, in the old Stettler Hospital and both the children started their schooling in Stettler. I was sent to N.A.I.T. by A.G.T. where I got my Journeyman's ticket in Telecommunications. I held many various jobs with A.G.T. while living in Stettler. When Richard went to school, so did Jean. She wanted to get her matriculation but she never made it because in 1975, A.G.T. offered me a foreman's job in High Prairie. The decision whether or not to take the job was hard to make. Jean pushed for the move thinking we would be close to the mountains (if you have ever been up that way you will know that High Prairie is further from the mountains than Stettler!) and she has a thing about mountains. We finally decided to go even though we had recently moved into our first home complete with mortgage. We missed our friends very much at first but we soon made new ones in High Prairie. We both loved the country up there but Jean was bored at home, with both Richard and Tracy in school and no training for a job. She did volunteer work at the High Prairie Library three days a week and was a member of the Library Board, and worked with the executive of the High Prairie Figure Skating Club but it wasn't enough so she started taking correspondence school lessons.



Lorne Roth family, L. to R. Rick, Jean, Lorne and Tracy.

In 1978, we were on the move again, we decided that as much as we liked the people and the northern area, we were too isolated. I took a transfer to the A.G.T. Tower in Edmonton and we bought a home in Sherwood Park. Jean moved there two months before I did and by the time I got there she was working, she had decided she wouldn't get into the same rut she had been in in High Prairie and applied for all the jobs in the Sherwood Park paper. The job she got was working at a Day Care Centre for three hours per day. When I moved down I was to find the children settled in school, a working wife, and a dog that felt left out of things.

After a year of working with children in Day Care Centres, Jean finally got the message that she wasn't really the person for that kind of work, even though she was working eight hours a day by that time. She found a job, with a small but growing construction firm, as a general secretary working six hours a day. Now she is working eight hours a day and the children and I think she is becoming a career person. The funny thing is, that part of her job is keeping the books for the company and a subsidiary company, but our books, which she also keeps, are always in the red.

We are planning to stay in Sherwood Park at least until the children finish their schooling.

Roth, Carl D. and L. Jean

Carl was born September 6th, 1941, in the Red Deer Hospital. His parents, Joseph and Dorothea, and family were living on the old Bill Hunt place in the Poplar Ridge district.

Carl's father originally came from Odessa, Russia. Joseph, as a young lad of six years, travelled with his family to Bow Island, Alberta, leaving Russia in January, 1910 and arriving after many difficulties in May of the same year. From Bow Island, they travelled to Haynes with three boxcars loaded not only with household goods but also with all their farm equipment and livestock. They settled in Haynes from 1926 to 1940 when they moved to the old Bill Hunt place. In 1945, they moved to their present home a mile west of Red Deer.

Carl attended St. Joseph's Convent from Grade 1 to 10, then because of overcrowding he took Grade 11 and part of 12 in the old army huts west of River Glen School. He attended Composite High School for the rest of Grade 12.

Carl started working for Prairie Bus Lines in 1960 as a bus driver with the Crossroads run until 1965 when he transferred to the Burnt Lake run until 1969. He started apprenticing as Mechanic in 1966 and received his certificate in 1971. He worked for the company until early 1980. Because of Carl's love of

working on the land, he continued working half days, mornings at Prairie and the rest of the day for spring and fall works on his Dad's farm.

Carl married L. Jean McCullough in 1969. Jean originally came from Vulcan, Alberta, in 1966. She worked as a Beautician in Red Deer until marriage to Carl.

Carl and Jean's first home was a trailer in his Dad's yard for six years. They then bought a house and moved it onto their acreage about a block west of the home farm.

They have three children: Leonard, age 15, Terence, age 10, and Heather, age 6. All three have and will attend River Glen School.

Rowbotham, Walter and Ellen

The Rowbotham family moved from the Grassy Lake district to the Ovide Landry place in 1962, and resided on the north end of the property, which was on the north side of the Blindman River. Five years later, the family moved to Vancouver Island after selling the portion of the property north of the river. In 1969, the family returned and took up residence on the south end of the property, south of the Blindman River. They purchased a mobile home at that time, and still live there. Sons, Kenneth and Vernon, and Ellen's mother, Stella McInroy, lived with Walter and Ellen during this time. Mrs. McInroy passed away in December of 1979.



Andrew and Stella McInroy, parents of Mrs. W. Rowbotham, 1918.

Kenneth lived on the same property as his parents, also in a mobile home, with his wife, Alida and son, Jason.

The eldest son, Aubrey, lived in Campbell River, B.C. with his wife, Margaret, and two of their sons, Lloyd and Richard. One daughter, Margaret Devlin and her two children, live in Red Deer. Also two other sons, Ronald and David and their families, live in Red Deer. One other son, Dwayne, lives in Stettler with his wife and son.



Rowbotham family, Walter, Vern, Aubrey, Austin, Ken, Ellen.

The youngest son, Austin, lived with his parents from 1969 to 1971, when he married Shirley, and moved into Red Deer. Austin and Shirley purchased the north portion of this property between the railroad track and the Blindman River in 1973. They reside on the property with their two sons, Shane and Scott.

Roy, Ernest and Elizabeth

by Bee Roy

As I am the only remaining one of the Alexander McBlane family still living and living in the McBlane house, I will tell a little of the McBlane history too. There were six boys and six girls in the family, me being the sixth one of the girls and the eleventh one of the family. I find it rather lonely now.

We were supposed to attend the Crossroads school but seeing it was far and no road to go on, my father got permission for us to attend the Red Deer school as it was much easier to go there. I didn't get acquainted with the Crossroads district till some years later.

Our neighbors were Phil and Bert Panrucker, Mr. Munshaw, John Stathers, and afterwards, Mr. and Mrs. Arnold, Mr. and Mrs. Lowrie, Etta and Forest, the Godley family and the Brodricks.

Alexander McBlane homesteaded the S.W. ¼

28-38-27-W4. He farmed and raised cattle, the main herd being cared for by Hiram Letts, in what became the Trochu district later. When his health began to fail, he got rid of most of the cattle except the milk cows and a few steers, to fatten each winter. His health got worse and after some months he passed away on December 1, 1917. The family were still all living at that time and had mostly remained in Alberta, but have all passed away since but me.



Flooding Red Deer River surrounds E. Roy house, 1940.

I stayed at home helping to run the place until I married Ernest Roy on June 23, 1919, and went to live in Ontario on a farm. We farmed and raised cattle. On our farm we had a hardwood bush where we had fine maple sugar trees. In the spring of 1920, we made about sixty gallons of maple syrup to be divided among the whole Roy family. On May 10, 1920, our son, Jack Blane Roy, was born. We farmed until Ern's health broke down owing to his having been gassed in the First World War. The doctor told us to return to Alberta, which we did in February in 1922. When Ern recovered sufficiently, we got a farm

at Camrose, Alberta, where after four years of working clearing and breaking the land, Ern found it was much too hard work for him and the doctor advised him to give up farming. He got a job with the Soldier's Settlement Board and was stationed at Wabamun where we lived for eight years. My mother, Isabella McBlane, spent much of her time with us while we lived at Wabamun. When Jack was ready for high school, we moved to Red Deer, back to the old McBlane homestead, which we had bought from Mother and where Mother was able to spend the rest of her life in her old home. We were so happy to have her with us as she was a lovely person and she thought the world of Ern and he of her. She never interfered in any way and was a real comfort to us. She enjoyed fairly good health most of the time until she took a slight stroke May 1, 1939 and passed away May 20th.

Jack took high school in Red Deer and played hockey on the school team, Ern often taking a car load of the players when they played out of town, this he enjoyed very much. In 1937, he was confined to his bed where with the best of care he remained until April 13, 1950 when he passed away and is laid to rest in the Red Deer cemetery.

I, (Bee) am still living in my old home. I was always much too busy to have time to get interested in women's clubs or church affairs outside of belonging to a concert party while we lived at Wabamun.

Jack married Doris Urquhart, the daughter of Dalton and Mary Urquhart. They live in Hinton where Jack works for the Forestry School.

Shuler, W. Robert and Ethel by Mary Alice McKinnon

Mr. and Mrs. W. Robert Shuler came to the Crossroads district in 1949, when they retired from farming in the Meadowvale district west of Rimbey, Alberta. They were pioneer homesteaders in the prairie country near Sibbald, Alberta, coming to Canada in 1913 from Nebraska in the U.S.A. They had moved to the Rimbey area during the dry years and depression of the thirties.

Their home was on an acreage which was a part of the quarter section previously owned by William Linton (popularly known as Billy Linton), which they bought in partnership with their eldest daughter, Mrs. E. Roberta Stewart. This was located directly east of the acreage retained by the Lintons where their old log cabin, built by early residents of the Red Deer area, stood until recent times. This area was a part of the Crossroads area until its annexation by the City of Red Deer.

Although retired from active work, the Shulers took a keen interest in gardening, and their land was

like a small park, with flowers, shrubs and trees. Mrs. Shuler was a member of the Crossroads Ladies Club for several years.

Robert Shuler passed away in March, 1959, and is buried in the Alto Reste Memorial Gardens. His wife, Mrs. Ethel Shuler, lived in the home until her death in April, 1965, after a long illness, and she was laid to rest beside her husband.

Sirois, Leo and Laura

Leo Sirois was born in St. Francis, New Brunswick, in 1894. His wife, Laura, was born Laura Martin in 1892. Laura became a French teacher and taught for three years before marrying Leo in 1916. She continued to teach until they moved to Retlaw, Alberta in 1922. A few years later, they moved to Eureka, California, where Leo worked in a saw mill in the Redwood Forests. This was where their first baby, Milton, was born. He arrived May 18th, 1925. In that same year they returned to Alberta, to Crescent City, a small town near Drumheller. Leo worked in the coal mines there for five years.

In the spring of 1931, they started farming in the Empress area of southeastern Alberta. Here their second child arrived, this time a daughter, Marlene, in December of 1931.

In 1939, they moved to the Bradbury farm in Crossroads, where they farmed until 1974. At this time they retired to the Twilight Lodge in Red Deer. Leo became ill two years later and was transferred to the Valley Park Manor. In August, 1979, he passed away in his 85th year. Laura moved to the Pines Lodge in 1976, where she still resides.

Milton served in World War Two. He married Gwen Daley of Sylvan Lake in 1948.

They have four children, Terry, Dale, Romana and Wayne. Terry lives in Vancouver and Dale is at Seattle, Washington. Romana resides in Penwick, Wash. and Wayne is attending University, but makes his home in Seattle, where Milton and Gwen reside.

Marlene married Albert Hermary in June, 1951. Albert now resides in Spirit River, Alberta. They have five children, Myron, Laura, Garry, Marion, and Della. Myron married Pat Vandeum, they live in Spirit River, also. Myron and Pat have one daughter, Nadine. Laura married Keith Bud. They live in Penhold and have two children, Derek and Dawn. Garry married Joan Lindskog and they reside in Blackfalds. Marion married Rick McLean and they live in Penhold. Della lives at home in Red Deer with Marlene.

Stent, H. S. (Red Deer and District Archives)

Mr. Stent homesteaded the N.W. 20-38-27 in

1893. He came to the area with his family from Portsmouth, England.

He was in the real estate business with his neighbor, F. L. Ray, and in 1907, purchased the Red Deer Steam Laundry.

The Stent family included, his wife and three children, Herbert, Claude and Ella.

Mr. Stent passed away on January 9, 1909, and he is buried in the Red Deer cemetery.

Stewart, Mrs. E. Roberta by Mary Alice McKinnon

Mrs. Roberta Stewart and her son Larry, came to the Crossroads district in 1950. They came to the acreage which was jointly owned with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Shuler. This acreage was part of the W. Linton farm which had been sub-divided.

Mrs. Stewart was employed by the Alberta Government at the Alberta School Hospital until her retirement in 1973.

After the death of her parents she continued to live on the acreage, where the fruit trees, gardens and flowers kept her busy. The area was a part of the city of Red Deer after being annexed some years earlier. She sold the place in 1979 when development of Glendale Park Estates was begun. She then bought a farm north of Leslieville adjoining the farm of her son, Larry, who had moved there several years before that time, with his wife and family.

Stonhouse, Sir Arthur and Lady Beatrice by Philip Stonhouse

Arthur Stonhouse first came to Central Alberta in 1906, having travelled across Canada on a harvest excursion from New Brunswick. He had been taking an agricultural course there since leaving England in 1902. He took up a homestead in the Botha area but did not "prove up" on it.

One of Arthur's favorite stories was of the extreme cold of the fabled winter of 1906-07. He and A. R. Gibson (later a well known school inspector) were freighting coal up the Red Deer River, between Alix and Lacombe. He said that a good whiskey jellied because of the cold.

Arthur moved on to the West Coast and down to Santa Monica where he had relatives. While in Santa Monica he met Beatrice Feron and they were married in El Paso, Texas. They lived for a brief time at a gold mine in the Mongallon Mountains of New Mexico.

They returned to Central Alberta in 1914, to enlist but due to varicose veins, Arthur was not accepted. They then took up a half section in the Brookfield district east of Blackfalds. After pressure from his sister, Arthur returned to England in 1919 to manage a large estate. England was no longer home and the

young couple returned to Central Alberta in 1922. They purchased the Arbuckle (Bains-Alford) place at Pine Lake.

The Pine Lake farm was home for the next 23 years, at which time Arthur retired from farming and took up the profession of assessing. On leaving Pine Lake, Arthur and Beatrice took up temporary residence in the Poplar Ridge district. They stayed in a small cottage on the W. J. Wilde property. As his assessment assignments required quite lengthy stays in a number of places in Alberta, Beatrice always went along to establish as much of a home away from home as possible. Their residence in Poplar Ridge was an on and off situation.

About 1950, the Stonhouses moved into their newly established home in the Crossroads area north of Red Deer. They lived here for a number of years before moving to the Waskasoo area of the city.

Arthur and Beatrice had four children, Philip is retired and living in Medicine Hat; Geraldine MacLean of Cambridge, Ontario; Peggy LaNauze of Midland, Ontario, and Betty Mitchell, who was living in England until her untimely death in the polio epidemic in 1957.

On his return to Alberta in 1922, Arthur became interested in public school matters and became a school trustee in 1923. He continued to hold this office until 1963. He frequently spoke of the vast changes from the completely operated "Little Red School House" system to the centralized systems. This finally resulted in the establishment of the Composite High School and River Glen School.

Although a staunch Conservative, Arthur was able to negotiate with the Liberal Federal Government for the purchase of the A 20 Army site and improvements. It was through his and School Inspector, L. A. Thurber's efforts that the Composite High School became a reality.

Both Arthur and Beatrice were staunch Conservatives. Arthur running as a candidate in the 1935 Provincial Election and in the 1941 Federal Election, both unsuccessfully. He continued his political activities on various committees and attended a number of national conventions.

Beatrice Stonhouse was a graduate nurse and was pressed into service during the "flu" epidemic of 1918-19. Nursing a number of rural families in the Brookfield area and also helping out in the Stettler Hospital. Upon leaving the farm in 1945, Beatrice once again became active in nursing in the Red Deer Hospital. When giving up active nursing she became very active in the Hospital Auxiliary. She had been active in the Red Cross for a number of years. Other spheres of interest and service were St. Lukes Women's Auxiliary and the Red Deer Art Club.

Beatrice passed away in 1978, having been pre-deceased by Arthur in 1967.

Symes, Thomas E. and Harriet D.

Harriet and Tom have lived on the S.E. 6-39-27-W4 since 1972, along with Gregory E. Symes, born in 1966 and Debbie L. Symes born in 1969.

Tom has lived in and around Red Deer since 1940. He played fastball for many years and was also active in the Boy Scout movement. As a young Boy Scout, he was awarded the Silver Medal from the Boy Scouts Association of Canada for helping save a young girl from drowning in Waskasoo Creek. His hobbies now are hunting with his horse, Duke, and trapping.

Harriet lived in Red Deer since 1951, and as a young woman could be found helping her Dad with the Driving School, or competing in Car Rodeos for several awards. Moving to the acreage had many new experiences such as; the first seven heifers calving, the two sows farrowing and the first season of haying. Thanks to helpful neighbors all turned out well. She also loves horseback riding and enjoys it all.

Gregary likes rodeos and as a result could be found at a young age riding a pig or a calf anytime he could. This practice must have paid off as he took his horse, Amigo, and entered the River Glen School Rodeo and came out 1980's "All Around Cowboy" at age 13. He is his mother's right hand with Tom away from home so much. He also loves hunting and trapping with his Dad.

Debra has had one love, "horses", since the age of three when her Aunt Peggy and Uncle Gene brought their twelve year old gelding, named Radar, for her to ride. This horse had already trained young riders. He stayed with her for four years until he was traded back for Little Joe. His patience and steady nature started her on a never failing touch to train and ride so well today. At eight years of age, Debra trained and sold a young mare on her own. She can be seen most days riding one of the three horses or training a young one in the pasture.

Every year the small acreage is visited by about one hundred Beavers, Cubs, Brownies and Kindergarten children. All eager to ride Little Joe and Amigo, pat the soft colt, feed the rabbits or just run around looking for the chickens and ducks. For many of these children it is a first time experience and a great pleasure for all the Symes to watch and help these young people.

Thompson, Walter Arthur and Elise by Myrtle (Thompson) Kleeberger

Walter Arthur Thompson was born in Staffordshire, England, in 1889. As a young man his

greatest desire was to immigrate to Canada. His father, worried that he could not support himself in this new country, wanted him to apprentice as a butcher. Father decided he would much rather serve his apprenticeship with a carpenter.

So he could take care of himself domestically, his mother presented him with the very large volume of "Mrs. Beeton's Book of Household Management". This massive piece of work was filled with advice. Everything was included; how to start a fire in a stove, how to prepare a meal and serve it, and recipes for everything from wines to desserts. There was even a chapter on how to serve a very formal and elegant meal with or without a maid. Thus prepared he arrived in Canada at the tender age of 18 years in 1907.

Father worked his way across Canada. At one point he found a job helping to build an early Lethbridge hotel. He finally settled on Vancouver Island, where he lived for several years before meeting our Mother.

Elsie Wilson was born near Moose Jaw, North West Territories in August of 1897, on her father's homestead. Saskatchewan had not yet been made a province.

After leaving his homestead Grandfather Wilson took a job on the railroad and worked in the pump-house. He and his family moved to several places in Sask. over the years. The final moves with the railroad (C.P.R.) were to Vernon, B.C. and then to Red Deer, where he passed away. J

Elsie was the eldest of this large family. In about 1924, she moved to Vancouver Island, where she worked for an aunt who was ill. It was there that she met my father.

Mother and Dad were married in 1925, in Duncan on Vancouver Island. There they lived for four more years before moving to Red Deer in 1929.



Walter, Elsie, Verna and Myrtle Thompson, 1958.

While they lived in B.C., two daughters were born to them; Myrtle, in 1926 and Verna, in 1929. We both attended school in North Red Deer for three years. Miss Florence Gaetz was our teacher there.

Grade four saw us walking the two miles to school in Red Deer. We walked, like many others, through all kinds of weather. We very seldom missed a day and can not even remember being late for school. We remember the winters and the great drifts we walked over, even on the down town streets. No snow removal then!

We lived near the railroad tracks on the old Burnt Lake Trail, across from where Oriole Park is today. This railroad crossing was a good place to catch a ride on a train during the depression years. The trains used to slow down considerably there going up the grade. We remember the scores of men who used to sit there waiting for the train. Mother made sandwiches for many a young lad then too.

Our Dad loved dogs and raised and also trained many of them. They were all registered hunting dogs. We also used to board dogs for people who were away on vacation.

Our Mother loved to garden. She grew many flowers and always had a large garden of vegetables. This provided us with good meals during the depression years. She was an accomplished seamstress as well as a competent needle woman.

Our Father passed away in December of 1959 and our Mother in April of 1980.

Myrtle married Bill Ireland. They had two children; Patricia, who was born in 1947 and Terry, who was born in 1953. Patricia married Dr. David Othen and lives in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Terry married Debbie McPhee and lives in Sylvan Lake. They have two children, Jason and Kristina. Myrtle now lives in the Peace River District near Bonanza.

Verna married Bert Klippert. They have three boys. They have lived in Mayo, Yukon Territories since 1959. Their boys are: Calvin, born in 1952, Wayne born in 1953 and Phillip, born in 1962. They all reside in Mayo at the present. (August 1980)

Tisdale, Mr. and Mrs. H. by their daughter, Mrs. Bowells

Mr. and Mrs. Tisdale came from England in the spring of 1927, with a family of eight children.

They settled in the Evergreen district which is eleven miles south of Condor, Alberta. They farmed there until 1940, when they bought an acreage near Red Deer in the Crossroads district.

Mr. Tisdale an expert leather worker, carried on his trade for awhile.

They enjoyed living in the Crossroads district

where they had many friends and good neighbors and lived the remaining years of their lives there.

Mrs. Tisdale passed away in 1957 and Mr. Tisdale passed away in 1966.

Trudel, Benoit and Marie

Benoit (Ben) Trudel and his parents farmed the S.W. 7-39-27-4th. The farm had previously been owned by the Miller family.

Marie was the daughter of Jean and Marguerite Deplame, who had also lived in the Crossroads district. The Deplames purchased the Henry Hart farm in 1921. Marie and her brother Frank, received their schooling at the Convent while the family lived in the district.

Benoit and Marie were married in 1931. They had three children; Jeanne, Roland and Therese, while they lived on the farm. As it was four miles to school, the children only attended Crossroads for a short time. They became part-time boarders at St. Joseph's Convent in Red Deer.

The Trudels lived in the area during the depression years, at which time the farmers helped each other. It made for good relationships, and wonderful memories are treasured by Marie, of the years spent in the Crossroads district. She belonged to the Poplar Ridge W.I. and they participated in local activities.

Ben and Marie sold their farm to Bill and Helen Nolan in April, 1944. They moved to Red Deer, and then to Edmonton. Ben passed away there in 1972. Marie retired from her work in 1975 and now divides her time between Toronto, Ontario and Tallahassee, Florida.

Jeanne lives near Toronto and Therese resides in Tallahassee.

Wuart, Tony and Marie Therese

by R. J. Wuart

Tony Wuart, second son of Anatol Wuart and Agnes Mouloir, was born in Biache, France, September 16th, 1880. He had four brothers, Aubert, Gabriel, Eugene and Henri and one sister, Henriette.

Being fatherless at an early age, he and his brother, Aubert, thirteen and fourteen respectively, operated a butcher shop in their home town. They often called on loitering miners to help them carry the heavy quarters of beef.

In 1905, at the age of 25, Tony left his family behind and came to Red Deer to find a place where it would be easier for his brothers and sister to settle down.

In 1909, his old brother emigrated to Canada and settled in Castor, becoming a partner in the Pioneer Meat Market.

Tony returned to France in 1909 to arrange for the rest of the family to emigrate. While there, at the request of Stephane Jasper, whom he had met in Red Deer, he visited the Jasper family and convinced them to come to Alberta to seek their future.

In June of 1910, part of the Jasper family, including three sisters, Marie Therese, Jeanne and Emma and two brothers Paul and Rene, arrived in Red Deer. Three months later Tony and Marie Therese were married. On June 29th, 1911, Tony and Marie Therese had a son Raymond. Six weeks after Raymond's birth, the family left the farm (which was later owned by the Benson Latam's), and moved to Castor. Here they joined Tony's brothers, Aubert, in the meat market, which they operated until 1921.

On July 9th, 1912, Andre was born, followed by Suzanne on February 26th, 1914.



Mr. and Mrs. Tony Wuart, 1944.

In 1921, Aubert and Tony sold the meat market and Aubert and family returned to France. Tony bought a farm just west of Caster.

In 1925, the family suffered a big blow when Suzanne passed away at the early age of eleven.

In 1939, Tony returned to his old trade, buying cattle and supplying the local market with fresh



Mr. and Mrs. Tony Wiart and family, 1918.

meat. Shortly after he set up a meat market at the back of the Castor Grocery. In 1959, Tony sold to William Nichols and retired. They settled in town in front of Our Lady of Grace Church in Castor. In 1972, it became impossible for them to look after themselves properly and they stayed two years with their oldest son, Raymond. Tony and Marie Therese then became guests of the Paintearth Lodge. In November, 1975, they entered the Coronation Nursing Home. Tony passed away suddenly on February 26th, 1976, at the age of 95 years and five months. Marie Therese continued to reside at the nursing home until October, 1978, when she became gravely ill. She was transferred to Our Lady of the Rosary Hospital. She passed away December 16th, 1978, at the age of 96 years and seven months.

Raymond received his schooling at Theresett School in Castor. He took his Normal Schooling at Camrose and taught for two years at Chauvin. On February 15th, 1937, he bought a small store in Castor. Four years later he acquired the R.M. Spratt general store, naming it the Magnet Store.

On February 7th, 1939, he married Yvonne de Moissac. On January 1, 1940, they became proud parents of a baby girl, Suzanne. A son, Guy, was born February 12, 1941, Robert arrived May 5th, 1942, Bernard, July 12, 1943, Michel, December 20th, 1944, Denise, November 6th, 1946 and Evelyn was born March 2nd, 1951.

Andre also attended school at Theresett School. He joined his father on the farm and later did the slaughtering for his father's meat market.

Andre married Anne Marie Gendre. To this union were born ten children; Agnes, May 14, 1943, Louis, June 7, 1944, Yvonne, May 6, 1945, Paul,

August 1, 1947, Roger, September 15, 1949, Marie, August 25, 1952, Madeleine, June 21, 1955, Maurice, June 20, 1958, Joseph, April 14, 1960 and Leo, June 30, 1961.

Andre suffered from leukemia and passed away on July 28th, 1973.

Wilkins, George S. (Red Deer and District Archives)

George Wilkins and his brother, F. E. Wilkins, came to Red Deer from the U.S.A. He and his brother acquired land presently the Red Deer Golf and Country Club in 1887, which became known as the Wilkins Ranch.

He and his brother built what was known as the Wilkin's Block, a two-storey, frame structure on the north side of Ross Street. The upper storey was used as Red Deer's first Public Hall. It was dismantled 70 years later.

In 1892, he went mining and in 1904, he became President of the Blindman Power Company.

In 1907, he married Mrs. Kathryn (MacKenzie) Miller and three months later died of a heart attack.

Wilkins, F. E. (Ted) (Red Deer and District Archives)

Francis Edward Wilkins was born January 8, 1864, at the British Consulate in St. Louis.

He came to Red Deer on a shooting trip and liked it so well he decided to stay.

He and his brother, George S. Wilkins, acquired the land presently known as the Red Deer Golf and Country Club, which had been homesteaded by Charles and Arthur Reid in 1885.

Ted Wilkins was prominent in public and political life of the pioneer community.

He left Red Deer for a short time to take charge of the river traffic from Whitehorse to Dawson Creek, but returned again at the close of navigation.

In 1904, the Blindman Electric Power Company was formed, with brother George as president and Ted as Secretary-Treasurer. This project designed to supply power to Lacombe, involved a rock and earth dam and power house. It was situated at the mouth of the Blindman River, and actually went into operation. Allowance had not been made for the fluctuations in the river flow, the fast flowing river in the spring run off became little more than a babbling brook in a dry summer.

Ted moved to Lacombe as manager of the Power Company and in 1908 was found in his office with a self-inflicted bullet wound in his head. His brother, George had died the previous November and possi-

bly brooding over both that and the company position were factors in his actions.

Following his death, the company ceased operations. Some of the rock hauled to the dam site from the Red Deer River by the Whitesell family were later used in the construction of the A. D. Gregson stone house.

Wilson, Bob and Alice

by Alice Wilson

Bob and Alice Wilson "immigrated" to Alberta in 1955, complete with a '49 Ford, new trailer 8 x 30 (not paid for), a nine month old baby and last months's pay cheque.

Bob was Jr. Observer in a Seismic Crew, as they were known at that time.

It wasn't until 1956 and they found their way to Red Deer, when Bob started working for Haliburton and later went with the Welex subsidiary of Haliburton/Welex.

The first year in Red Deer, found them trying the trailer park accomodations at Hillcrest Cabins (where the Elks Club is now located); Red Deer Trailer Court (where the Red Deer Inn is located) and finally settling at Mayberries 2-11 Trailer Court. They were one of the first residents in the newly opened court and located in #2 stall. This was most convenient for Gwen who would open her bedroom window and have a free show for a bedtime story, complete with audio from the newly constructed Drive-In Theatre next door.

By 1957, Bob and Alice were on the move again, this time to Alder Flats. By this time Lynn was a new small addition to the family.

1958, saw Bob and Alice leave the Oil Patch and move back to Red Deer. One year later found them moving on to a one acre piece of stubble field in a new subdivision in the Crossroads district, known as Valleyview. By this time they had a different car and 8 x 34 mobile home and three youngsters, as Joann had now joined the family.

At this time Valleyview had the inner road built and gravelled, no water, no sewer, no power and of course no telephone. To remedy the water problem, Bob helped Don Bodwell dig a 32 foot well. This was dug by hand on the property-line between the Wilson and Bodwell lots. They also rented a gas powered portable power-plant to supply the two trailer. Temporary sewer facilities were also dug.

Six week after the families were all settled, Mother Nature decided the area should have a little moisture in the form of a quick, windy hailstorm. This was followed by a downpour that lasted only a few minutes. That was the end of the power plant. By this

time it was midsummer, with long evenings, however, Jessie and Alice pulled out the coal oil lamps, reminiscent of "younger days on the farm". Power arrived that fall and the telephone was hooked up in the spring.

About this time, Bob went to work at Alberta School Hospital. A garage was built over a hand dug root cellar and was used as a large room off the trailer. From here Gwen started school at Crossroads School. She went to school here until the school was closed in 1962.

Little did Alice ever expect the day the trailer and garage burned down, that the firefighters who came to fight the fire would be among her co-workers when she became the first female secretary for the Red Deer Fire Department.

The fire occurred a few days before Halloween in 1962. A few days later, much ahead of their proposed financial schedule, the basement of the house was dug and the main structure of the house was built before Christmas. Insurance money provide the material and with the expert assistance of Alf McGhan, George Williamson and Don Bodwell and lots of volunteer labor, the house was built. The response of the Crossroads Community and the members of Gaetz United Church in assisting the Wilsons to relocate was generous in all aspects. The Wilsons appreciated this help.

By February of 1963, after the generosity of the Don Bodwells, Doug Russells of Red Deer and Hubert and Ann Thibeault of Calgary, who supplied a roof for the family, the Wilsons moved into the basement of their first house.

As the year rolled by, Gwen, Lynn and Joann attended River Glen school and Lindsay Thurber High School. A few years later they acquire another sister, Eileen, who has attained her schooling in the same manner.

After thirty-six moves in six years, this one acre of land is still home to Alice and the girls. A note of unsung appreciation may now be extended to the farming neighbors of Valleyview Subdivision, for if it had not been for them, the Milnes, Duvals, Krogmans and others, some of the first inhabitants of Valleyview would have been lost.

Today, Bob resides in Calgary. Gwen and her husband, Dennis, live in Edmonton. Gwen is a switchboard operator and receptionist. Gwen was a cheerleader with the Edmonton Eskimos in 1980. Lynn, a graduate of Mount Royal College, Calgary, applies her architectural design talents to her projects with Contempra in Red Deer. Joann, a retired hairdresser, is busy keeping house for her husband Neil and two children, Salina and Trevor. Eileen, a grade eleven student at Lindsay Thurber, has a busy sched-

ule. Alice, a medical receptionist secretary in Red Deer, still feels as if Valleyview, now Linn Valley, is home. Alice's mother, Mrs. Finley, was a frequent visitor at the Wilson home. She is not a resident of the Twilight Lodge. A bright and active Senior Citizen of 92 years.

Wright, James and Adah **by Mary Krogman**

James Wright was born on September 30th, 1862, at Thornton, Lincolnshire, England. He came to Canada and on October 24th, 1888, was married in Sault Ste. Marie, to Adah Handford. Adah was born in England, at Hathern, Leicestershire, on May 14th, 1860.

During their stay at Sault Ste. Marie, three children were born, the two eldest passing away at a very early age, Theodore arrived April 23rd, 1897. Sometime during the next three years they moved to Hartney, Manitoba, where Dorothea was born, June 29th, 1900.

In 1901, they came to Red Deer by train, via

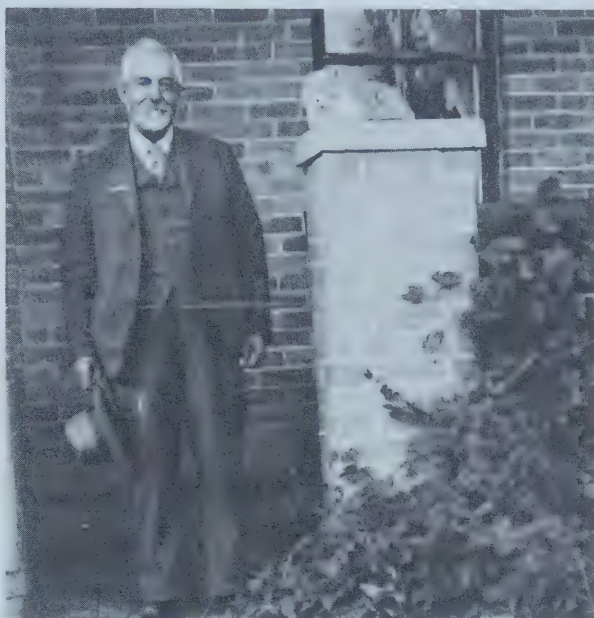


James Wright family about 1912, L. to R.: James, Adah, Lewis, Theodore and Dorothea.

Calgary and lived for a time at the Old Crossing. Lewis, the youngest, was born November 13th, 1903. They then settled on the NE of 25-38-28-W4. A log barn was built and used as a house until a brick house was built.

Granddad was a brick mason by trade and worked for Peiper Brick Yard. He had a hand in building many of the old brick buildings in Red Deer, one of these being the old Central Block, which was torn down and replaced by a striking building on the northwest corner of Gaetz Avenue and Ross Street.

The home, my mother was raised in, was of brick construction and the front veranda was always cov-



James Wright.

ered with vines. I remember my Grandfather as a very small man with a well trimmed beard. His English accent was very strong and we often teased him when he would say "I 'urt me helbow", which, of course, was "I hurt my elbow". I was very small when Grandmother passed away, but Mother often told me she was even smaller than Granddad, and was less than five feet tall.

Mother told of a time when there was no money in the house. Granddad worked for Peiper, who instead of paying wages traded for their needs, such as groceries and clothing, so no money ever changed hands. There was a morning, when cleaning the back porch, the step was moved and a quarter was found. That 25 cents left as fast as it was found when a neighbor came that afternoon for donations for treats for the Christmas concert at the school.

One afternoon, Grandmother had a famous

guest, Father Lacombe stopped at the house to ask directions and stayed for tea.

After Grandmother's passing, Granddad remained there on the farm with Uncle Lewis, where they farmed a quarter section with horses. I remember that there was always a large covered bowl of rhubarb or applesauce sitting in the middle of the kitchen table at Granddads. In later years they had housekeepers, but before this Granddad did the household tasks. He passed away in 1942, at the age of 80.

Wright, Theodore and Reta

Theodore (Ted), the eldest son of James and Adah (Hannford) Wright was born in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, on April 23rd, 1897. He came west to Red Deer with his parents and baby sister.

Ted attended Crossroads School and enlisted in the First World War. He served for a time overseas, where he was wounded. After his return, he took up the printing trade and worked for a time in Red Deer, Trehern, Manitoba and Calgary.

Ted married Reta Thompson of Calgary in 1939. They had three sons, all born in Calgary. Joseph and twins, Walter and Wayne. In 1949, they moved to Lacombe, where Ted was employed at the Lacombe Globe for a number of years.

Ted passed away in 1971, Reta now resides in Victoria, B.C.



Ted Wright family, L. to R.: Wayne, Joe, Walter and Reta.

Joseph married Barbara Tucker. They also live in Victoria. Christopher, James and Laurina make up their family of two boys and a girl.

Walter married Sheila McGregor and they have two boys, Cameron and Gordon in their family. Walter and Sheila now live in Red Deer.

Wayne married Colleen Kinnie. They reside in Wetaskiwin and have one son, Kirt.

Wright, Lewis and Alice

Lewis Wright, the youngest son of James and Adah Wright was born on November 13th, 1903. He was raised on the N.E. ¼ 25-38-28-W4 and attended Crossroads School. He remained on the farm with his father and worked hard as all young fellows did, clearing and breaking land. His father was a brick mason and the farming fell mostly to Lewis.

After his father passed away in 1942, Lewis married Alice Segur and continued to farm the home place. In the mid 1940's, they sold their farm and moved to the Waskasoo district, where they purchased the Alfred Dykes farm.

Alice and Lewis milked a herd of cows and raised chickens for a number of years. Lewis was a hard worker who loved a good story. He passed away suddenly in 1971, at the age of 68 years. Alice still resides on the farm in the Waskasoo district.

Residents of the Crossroads Area

While searching for histories the following people were mentioned as having lived in the district at some time or other. Although we were unable to get histories from them or their kin we feel that their names should be mentioned. No doubt we will have missed some folks, but this is a list of the names we tried to get in touch with. Some of these names were mentioned in histories received.

Andersons, Ashmores, Biswangers, Brenermans, Choates, Clays, Curries, Chestermans, Davis, Debolts, Devilefaynes, Excells, Fletts, Forresters, Glassons, Harpers, Heagles, Holmes, Heidebrechts, Heywoods, Ingrams, Leonards, Learmonds, Melroses, Millers, Nelsons, Plasterers, Quiggs, Robinsons, Sandersons. Skeltons, Speights, Vickers, Wilkenson and Woodrows.

This does not include present residents of the area.

Does Anyone Remember

by W. E. Nolan

This poem is printed with the kind permission of Bill Nolan, who's dad homesteaded in the Milner school district east of Innisfail, Alberta.

Does anyone remember when a cone was just a dime
And gum was just a nickel, and the price of gas was fine?

Does anyone recall those days when a pair of shoes
were five,
And a family worked from dawn to dark to keep
themselves alive?

Does anyone remember when each nickel we would
hoard,

And that rubber-tired Bennett Wagon was supplied
by Henry Ford?

Does anyone remember that old-time country fair,
And the air was filled with laughter, 'cause all your
friends were there?

Does anyone recall all those showings at the fair?
The cakes, and jams, and jellies, would just make
one stand and stare.

Does anyone remember what we paid a pound for
meat,
When grain was almost nothing, and we'd scarce
enough to eat?

Does anyone remember that old biffie small and
neat,
Where one would shop the catalogue on a cold and
frozen seat?

Does anyone recall the oil lamp not so bright,
As we'd gather 'round the table, altogether every
night?

Does anyone remember the old school country
dance,
Where the sound of old time fiddlers would just make
you want to prance?

Does anyone remember all the seats around the hall,
Where the children were all nestled, safe and close to
mothers' call?

Does anyone remember the old time team and sleigh,
And we worked so very hard to feed the cattle every
day?

Does anyone recall how we walked two miles to
school
Through rain, and snow, and blizzard, just to learn
the golden rule?

Does anyone recall all those school days that were
sweet,
When a child would come to classes without shoes,
but just bare feet?

Does anyone remember the gophers on the hill,
Where a child would hold the binder twine, while
keeping very still?

Does anyone remember all the jolly times we had,
As we gathered up the gopher tails, as we did when
just a lad?

Does anyone remember all these memories that I
quote?
Where today it's dollar gasoline and a thousand dol-
lar coat.

Does anyone remember the happy times we had?
All those trials and tribulations, gosh! they really
weren't so bad.

I Remember by Bruno Comis

At the time when we moved to the farm on the
Burnt Lake Trail, the wagon road from the ferry
across the Red Deer River was in perfect condition.
You could follow the original Edmonton to Calgary
Wagon Trail. The signs of the trail were still visible
beyond the Blindman River. The pack trail was also
visible, which was the shortest distance from one
point to another.

In 1924, the Burnt Lake Trail was just two ruts.
Frank Dallaire graded the road with a big steamer and
Wes Dwyer used a four-bar drag pulled by four
horses. The holes in the road were filled and drained
with a shovel. Some of the maintenance was later
done by Andy Forrester. These two gentlemen
looked after the Trail from the town limits of Red
Deer to the Fifth Meridian.

Benson Latam and the Wiggins were the first car
owners and drivers over the Trail. They drove 490
Chevrolets, '23 or '24 models. It was 1925 or '26
before it was used for regular traffic. This was the
time of the 'Bennet Buggy' in the early 1930's and
cars and trucks in the late 1930's.

A highlight of the time, before the motor traffic,
was to see Jerry Sills passing by on the road with
three or four pair of mules and a pair of Percheron
wheelers. They pulled two grain tanks (two wagon
loads of grain each). The lead mules had bells
mounted on the hames. Jerry Sills rode the left horse
and drove the entire unit with a jerk line. He was the
only person I ever knew who was an original mule
skinner. He had driven an ore wagon in Butte, Mon-
tana and had freighted ore in this manner.

Another sight to see was John Gehrke, who drove
a very smart looking span of horses on a democrat.
His son raised and bred coach horses at Lousana,
Alberta.

One of the most popular travellers of the trail was
Ernie Kirk our welcome mail courier for many years.

Living beside the trail brings back memories of
being aroused at midnight by many an ardent fisher-
man stuck in the mud and in need of assistance.

At 94 years, Charlie Blakely Remembers

Many years ago in March of 1921, Bill Blakley
and his neighbors, Lewis and Jimmy Wright came to
Charlie and Bird Blakely's for hay. At this time
Charlie and Bird lived on Brunt Lake.

The hay racks were loaded in the morning and the
men came in for dinner before starting their journey
back in the afternoon.

In the course of the conversation, Mr. Wright told
Charlie that he should be thinking of getting married.

Charlie in return told Mr. Wright that he would think about it in five or ten years. Little did Mr. Wright know that Kitty, Charlie's bride-to-be was already on the ocean having left England on March 11th. She arrived in Calgary on March 23rd and she and Charlie were married on the 24th.

The following week-end Charlie and his new bride were at his brother Sam's, when Jim and Adah Wright arrived for tea. When Charlie introduced his new bride to Mr. Wright he said, "Charlie that's the shortest ten years I've ever seen."

Mrs. Ena (Nash) Blakely — Remembers

We came to the Crossroads area in 1894. The C.P.R. came through the year after. When we first came, the stage coach and freight wagon trail ran right past our door, on the old stage coach trail between Calgary and Edmonton.

I remember my dad bought one of the horses from a freight team, after the Railway went through. The team was split up, Mr. McBlane getting the black horse and my dad got the sorrel. That old horse lived to be about 24 years old.

An Early Experience I Remember

by Dora (Wright) Stewart 1964

One summer evening, the year of 1904, we were enjoying the fresh air outside, when a weird wailing sound seemed to fill the air. At first we thought it was the cry of coyotes, but there was too much rhythm, not found in the sound of coyotes.

A band of Indians were camped about a quarter of a mile north of our house, and the sound seemed to be coming from there.

Dad and my big brother, Ted, about seven years old, decided to go see what all the noise was about. A neighbor, Mr. David Linn, on whose place the band were camped, heard the chanting and had hurried over to meet Dad and Ted. He told Dad he had hired the Indians to cut brush for him and was concerned about this big ceremonial pow-wow.

When Dad, Ted and Mr. Linn arrived at the camp the Indian Chief came out to meet them in full head dress. The rest of the band sat around the large fire keeping up the monotonous chant. The Chief told them that his grandmother had passed away and they were holding the ceremony for her spirit. He asked that the "White man go and leave them to their sorrow". Mr. Linn and Dad expressed their sympathies and went home very much relieved, and a little wiser than when they left.

My brothers and I used to go to the old camp to look for arrow heads but never had much luck.

I Remember

by Alice Wilson

When a person could sit in their living room in Valleyview and look over the fields to Red Deer in the valley and the Canyon Ridge beyond. A beautiful sight.

When Highway 2 was built and the 2-11 overpass became a reality, a new addition to the scene between Valleyview Subdivision and Red Deer.

When Valleyview came into existence, Pixley's Service was on the outskirts of Red Deer on the east, South School on the south and Dentoons Greenhouse was on the outskirts to the north.

When trees were planted all around the perimeter of the thirteen acre recreational area in Valleyview.

When in 1965, a few residents decided that all the horses and big dogs should go, in order to clean up the Subdivision. It caused a fair amount of publicity. Today several girls still have their saddle horses while the boys have their motorbikes and dune buggies in all names and sizes.

When the water table was three and a half feet from the top surface and publicity labelled it "sewer problems". A good percentage of the problem was the high water and improper drainage, not necessarily the sewer installations.

When Valleyview had a regulation skating rink and a hockey team. Now there is a tennis court.

When Valleyview put on beef barbecues to raise funds for the construction and maintenance of the skating rink and the construction of the recreation centre.

When each Halloween the few outhouses that had been Valleyview's first plumbing were always tipped over. One particular "think promoter" was forever being found tipped. The last year it was in existence, it's owner decided to see who the culprits were. The one way to do it was to take up residence for the evening. Along about dusk three little girls age eight to nine, thought this was their year to have fun, with one might heave they pushed the mighty fortress over on it's door. You can imagine their surprise when they heard their dad let out a mighty whoop from within as it crashed.

When Mac and Ed Hallet started Bingos and involved the young people of the area in the fund raising, in hopes that the residents would one day enlarge the centre, to accommodate larger social functions. The Ratepayers Association, once again, for the third or fourth time, have a committee to represent this community as delegates to the County Council. New residents and new blood try to make Linn Valley as pleasant a residential area as possible. Nevertheless, "hats off" to the Hallets, perhaps your

dream will come true with the inspiration of some of the newcomers to the area. We hope so.

YD

Y. Duval

NU

F. Neilson

HD

W.J. Hazlett

Brands of the Crossroads Area

HL

H. Landry

HR

T. Pomerleau



OFF TO SCOTLAND — Two, three-year-old, 1,400 pound Angus cows, and two bred yearling Angus heifers from the Parkland will be off to Aucheneck, Scotland Jan. 21. It's the second time in Canadian history that Angus cattle have been shipped back to Scotland. The last contingent of six head went last fall, from the Southholm Ranches of Lethbridge. These females from the brood stock of the Bill Milne "Clunymore Angus Ranches," Red Deer, are choice mothers. The Milne ranch has 60 registered Angus, with 30 cows, two of which will be sold March 16, at the Lacombe Cross Country Sale.

1973

JP

J.P. Roth

MY

R.J. Murray
115

KU

E. Krogman

Our Roll of Honour



Yves Duval.



Albert Duhamel.



Gabriel Hermery.

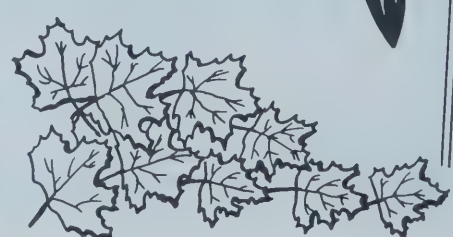
Veterans

World War One 1914-1918

Billingham Archie
Duhamel Albert
Duval Yves
Hazlett James
Hazlett William
Parker David Cecil

Pomerleau Rène
Plumb Edwin
Plumb John
Richardson Harry
Robson Russel
Wright Theodore

We honour all who served
in World War One
1914 1918



Our Roll of Honour

Veterans

World War Two 1939-1945

Bollinger Irven
 Bollinger Reuben
 Comis Bruno
 Comis Otto
 Comis Yvo
 Debolt Jack
 Deutsch Rudy
 Duhamel Albert
 Duhamel Joseph
 Duhamel William
 Duval Felix
 Edgar Leslie
 Edgar Robert
 Forrester Robert (killed in action)
 Galavan Cyril (missing in action)
 Galavan Earl
 Galavan Reg

Hermany Jean
 Heywood Tom
 Heywood Greta
 Kellington Erling James (killed in action)
 Landry Andrew
 Landry Henri
 Landry Lawrence
 McKinnon James
 McKinnon Walter
 Mullin Guy
 Neilson Fred
 Plumb John
 Pomerleau Rene
 Richardson Harry
 Rioux Henry
 Rioux Jean Paul
 Sirois Milton

We honour all who served in World War Two
 1939 1945





Irven Bollinger.



Bill Duhamel.



Reuben Bollinger.



Joe Duhamel.



Felix Duval.



Otto Comis.



Lawrence Landry.



Henry Landry.



Jean Hermary.



Greta Heywood.

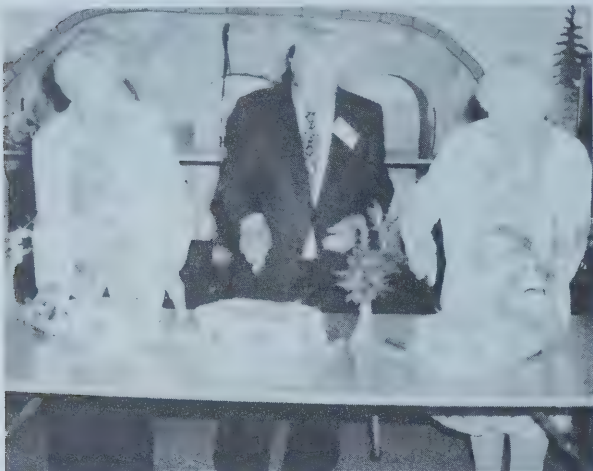


Andrew Landry

Crossroads Celebrates Alberta's 75th

The Crossroads district celebrated Alberta's 75th Birthday with a Home Coming. The Poplar Ridge Community Centre was chosen as a meeting place for the August 31st celebration.

A pot luck dinner, with tables laden with food, started out the afternoon.



Cake cutting, Mrs. Lily Milne, Grandpa Duval, Mrs. Ena (Nash) Blakely.

The following people were honored: Mr. Duval and Mr. Murray, both over 90 years and living in the district; Mrs. Ena (Nash) Blakely, who was only four months old when she came to the Crossroads area; Mrs. Eveline Pomerleau, whose 75th Birthday and Alberta's were in the same year, and the following ladies present who were born before Alberta became a province: Mrs. Milne, Mrs. Edgar, Mrs. Nash, Mrs. Philips, and Mrs. Hazlet.

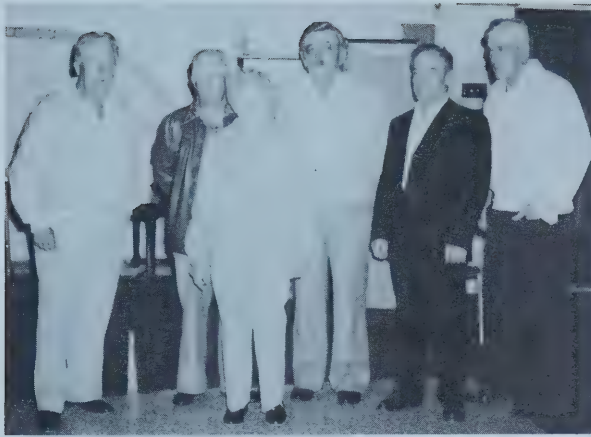
We were pleased to have four former teachers present. Mrs. Lyla Frizzell and her husband came all the way from Gunn, Alberta, to be with us. Mrs. Nash, (nee Mabel Maxwell), who taught from 1928 to 1930, was present. Mrs. Mary (Lawrence) Latimer was there to visit with some of her ex-pupils. Mrs. Creelman, who was Crossroads' last teacher, came for a short time, but had to leave to attend another home coming.

Three beautiful cakes were supplied by the ladies of the Crossroads Community Club. They were made and decorated by Grace Grover. The honor of cutting these birthday cakes went to Mr. Duval, Mrs. Blakely and Mrs. Lily Milne, who was born in the district and still residing here.

The afternoon was filled with visiting, reminiscing and picture taking.



Former students, teachers and Mr. Duval.



Mrs. Mabel (Maxwell) Nash and former pupils, L. to R.: Bob Edgar, Bill Edgar, Fred Neilson, Henry Landry, Joe Duval.



Mrs. Lyla (Rose) Frizzell and former pupils, L. to R.: Bob Edgar, Bill Edgar, Fred Neilson, Salley (Hazlett) Morton, Joe Duval, Mrs. Frizzell, Kay (Baldwin) Bystrom, Geoff Hazlett, Charlie Richardson, Bill Edgar.



Mary (Lawrence) Latimer and former pupils, L. to R.: Peter Kooiman, Linda (Murray) Turley, Stewart Krogman, Mary Lou Reed, Sandy Murray.



Mrs. Creelman and former pupils, Sandy Murray, Stewart Krogman, Patty (Edgar) Wescott, Peter Kooiman.



Great West Sawmill, North Red Deer.



Emile Lancery and son, Charles, seeding.



Wiert family, 1917.



Henry Federer burning brush, 1922.



Henry and Max Federer breaking, 1922.



Henry Federer Cutting, September 6, 1922.



Tillie Hazlett with Rumley tractor.



Church gathering at Fred Neilson's, standing back row: Mrs. Ralph Wilkens, Mrs. Alf Heywood, Mr. Alf Heywood, Mrs. Tom Percival, unknown, Mrs. Fred Neilson, Mr. Fred Neilson, Mr. Henry Hart, Mrs. Henry Hart, unknown, Mrs. Archibald Sr., Mr. E. Finch, Roger Neilson, unknown, Mrs. Reed, unknown. Front row: Mrs. A. Neilson, Mrs. Archibald Jr., Helen Neilson, Mrs. Edgington, Mrs. Moseley Jr., Mrs. Finch. Children: unknown, Marjorie Lagraw, Dorothy Percival, unknown, Iris Lagraw, unknown.



First 15-30 tractor north of Calgary, 1924, Edward Hermary.



Tom Hazlett and tractor with Henry and Max Federer, 1925.



Bollinger Combining — Driver, Grant Nash.



Sam Blakely's threshing outfit.



Edgars hauling milk to Alpha Condensary.



Snowstorm, March 16, 1951, Yvonne Duval.



Some of the Edgar Gang: Polly, Bobby, Pat (in stroller), Beth, Barb and Lynn.



Sawing wood at Longacres.



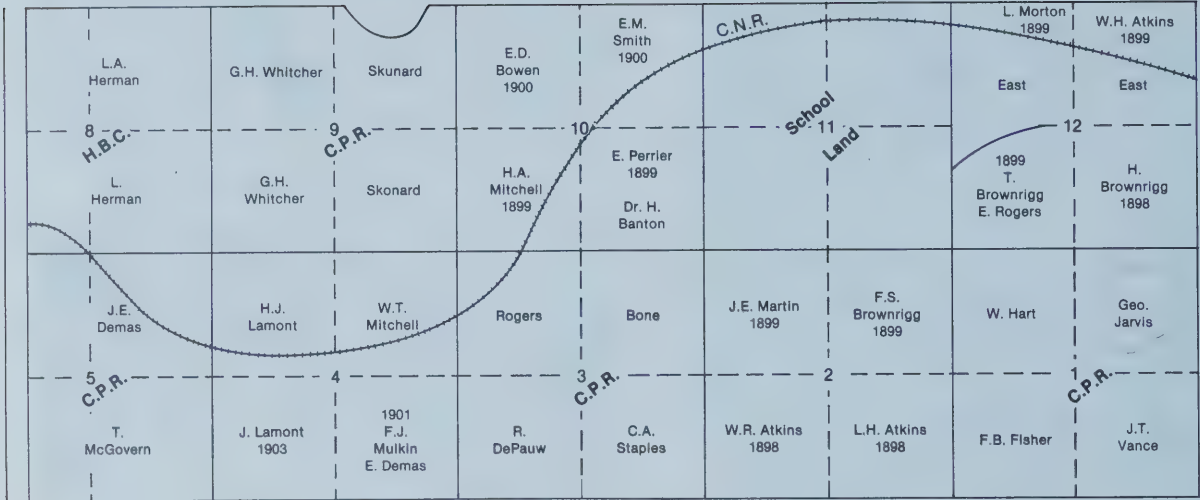
Snowstorm, September 21, 1945.

The changing weather

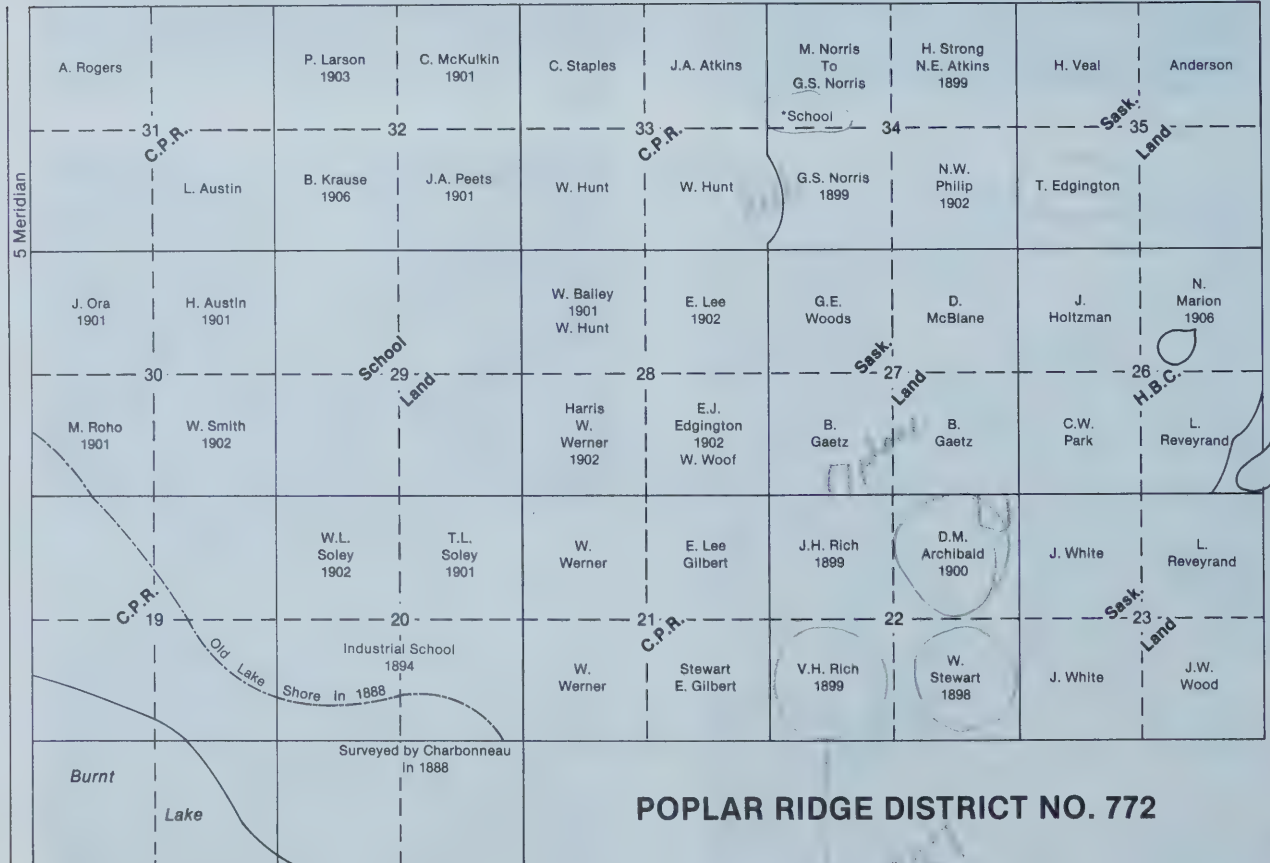


One month later, October 21, 1945.

T39 - R28 W of 4th



Sylvan Lake Trail



T38 - R28 W of 4th

POPLAR RIDGE DISTRICT NO. 772

Poplar Ridge

Poplar Ridge

When I look back on years now past,
Of Poplar Ridge my memories last.

Singing birds in the country lanes,
The fields turning green in summer rains.

Miles and miles of poplar trees,
The scent of a rose carried on the breeze.

Indian paint brushes hither and yon,
The bouncing flight of deer and fawn.

This great wide valley has been so blessed,
With the peace and beauty of nature's best.

by Verna Anderson (nee Tooley)

A Popular Guide

by Mrs. Wm. Stewart

In the early nineteen hundreds, one of the most popular pastimes was dancing in the settlers homes. Most every week someone opened their house to the neighbors and dancing was the order of the evening till the wee small hours of the morning. The ladies brought cakes and sandwiches and the hostess supplied the coffee.

The music was supplied by those who had violins, mouth organs and what have you and if the hostess had an organ or piano, the music was sure to be good.

One of the early violin players was Mr. Narcise Marion. He could play all night long and seemed never to tire. He lived on the North East Quarter of Section 26-38-28, West of the fourth with his wife and three sons. He was a hunter and guide and used to take hunting parties out to the west county during the hunting season and they very seldom came back with less than the full take. Their eldest son, Bill, was a good violinist, also, and played for a lot of dances. He took up blacksmithing and became one of the best blacksmiths in Red Deer. He later moved to Nordegg and from there we lost track of him.

Louis and Victor joined the army in the First World War, 1914 to 1918. When they came home their

father had died and their mother had gone to live with relatives so the boys left the farm.

Mrs. Marion never spoke English, though she understood it perfectly; she preferred to speak in her native tongue which was Cree.

Mr. Nick Belich bought the farm through the soldier settlement plan and Mrs. Belich still owns it though they don't live there now.

An Indian Custom: When a visitor or family called on Indians, they always took the first serving of food themselves and ate some of it to show that it was good to eat, and not poisoned. They in turn would not take the first bite of food from anyone else.

An Early Experience I Can Remember

by Mrs. Wm. Stewart

One summer evening in 1904, we were outside enjoying the fresh air when a weird wailing sound seemed to fill the air. At first we thought it was the cry of coyotes, but there was too much rythm, not found in the howl of coyotes.

A band of Indians were camped about a quarter of a mile north of our house and the sound was coming from there.

Dad (Mr. James Wright) and my big brother, Ted, (about seven years old) decided to go and see what all the noise was about. A neighbor, Mr. David Lynn, on whose place the band was camped, had heard the chanting also and had hurried over and met Dad and Ted. He told Dad he had hired the Indians to cut brush for him so was rather concerned about the big ceremonial Pow-wow.

The settlers were always concerned when the Indians gathered as they had not forgotten the troubled days of the Rebellion.

When Dad, brother Ted and Mr. Lynn went up to the camp, the Indian chief came out to meet them in full dress. The rest of the band was sitting around the large fire keeping up the monotonous chant. The Chief told them that his grandmother had died and that they were holding a ceremony for her spirit and

asked that “White men go and leave them with their sorrow.”

Mr. Lynn and Dad expressed their sympathy and went home very much relieved and a little wiser than when they left home.

In later years, my brothers and I used to go to the old camp-site to look for arrow heads but didn't have much luck.

Mr. Lynn lived on the present Les Edgar farm.

Poplar Ridge District by the late Mrs. Evelyn Peterson

New settlers in the spring of 1898 on the high banks of the Saskatchewan on the river across from Edmonton, near the little settlement of Strathcona, were Mr. and Mrs. Alex Bone and their four daughters. We lived there on rented land until the spring of 1900. Bought land in the Poplar Ridge District, one mile north of what is now Highway 11 but no road was there then. Any trail we could get through the dense bush was called a road by early settlers. We had to take axes along to get through. In the summers it rained almost every day. Winters were very cold — lots of snow.

A two room house was built and it was occupied several years before a large house was built to take its place. My father was a carpenter and was away most of the time leaving Mother to sew, knit and bake for the family. There was no school nor church. We had a fine neighbour. He ran a large herd of cattle those days. Mr. Skunard, he came to my mother and Mr. Eggen said we're going to have a school built. Mr. Skunard says “I have four boys, Mrs. Bone, and you have four daughters. We are going to git that school.” It was built in 1905 or 1906, if I recall.

An organ was bought shortly after the school was built. Baptist Church services were held there.

It was hard to raise grain till land was broken — cattle and chickens were scarce. Butter and eggs were taken in trade for groceries.

There were lots of wild animals, even wild turkeys, lots of wild fruit. My mother was very active in all community affairs and was anxious to see the district go ahead. She was one of the first to raise a garden. People came from far and near to see it. My grandmother was another old settler, Mrs. Edmund Du Perrier of Poplar Ridge. Her homestead is the place now owned by John McDonald. Mr. Skunard's homestead was where Mike Maga lives. He built all those buildings and was a grand farmer. My father worked with the government most of the time with Mr. Hedemark. Mr. and Mrs. Bill Atkins were old settlers here when we came and were fine neighbours, always ready to help. Mr. and Mrs. Eddie

Martin were our neighbours, too. Another old settler on the homestead where K. Hanson now lives.

Early Recollections of Poplar Ridge by the late J. W. Christian

My earliest recollections of Poplar Ridge was a pall of smoke for it seemed in those days when fire was the recognized method of clearing land, that there was always a bush fire somewhere in the district during the Spring and Summer and even in the Fall and Winter when the railways were burning their “right of ways” through the district.

My partner, Geo. Diggins and I often “hoofed” it along the Sylvan Lake Trail (and **Trail** was the only name for it in those days) to and from our homesteads northwest of Leslieville and Diggins would always stop to admire the level (?) green on the N.E. corner of Harry Strong's place, thinking what a splendid cricket pitch it would make. How he was disillusioned when later I owned part of that slough and he was able to view it at close quarters and saw the rough nature of his desired cricket pitch.

But sloughs were valuable land in those days when higher land had to be cleared with grub hooks and elbow grease for they provided a never failing supply of good hay year after year in season of which Harry and others took full advantage.

Harry Strong was a slow good natured character to whom we became quite attached as we spent the whole of one winter under his roof while felling dead dry trees on what became the Sodermans and Wiley farms, hauling pole and cord wood to the Piper Brick Co. in Red Deer, although we could never quite reconcile ourselves to having the cream separator start to whine at eleven o'clock at night regular, right on the dot, having recently come from Ontario where such operations were done at a more seemly hour.

Mrs. Strong was an excellent cook and after working hard all day in the bracing cold; we were prepared to do justice to her cooking at the evening meal, especially if dumplings and gravy happened to be on the menu, I know I made a hog of myself on such occasions and was glad to stretch out on the couch after such a meal until I got wise to a little joke the mother and five year old daughter, Irma, shared at my expense while washing up the supper things they would refer to me as ‘Tout de meme cochon’ or something to that effect, which really struck home and I understood what they were saying, but being good friends we enjoyed the joke in later years when I discovered its meaning. (All the same pig).

We enjoyed our work getting out dry poles once we learned to sink our axes into the rotting roots rather than chop above ground where the dry wood is

iron like. Deer were plentiful and much tamer than they are now and we would frequently look up to see one or more quietly contemplating us over the top of a brush pile, possibly commenting to themselves on the antics of two half green Englishmen.

Being half green to the ways of the brush got us into some trouble at times and many the run-aways we had owing to slack traces coming unhooked; allowing the sleigh to run up on the heels of the bronks going down Soderman or Fisher Hills. We were apt to look up on such escapades as fun adding spice to the days work but I was once badly humiliated when having passed a scowling French-Canadian on the Fisher Hill, who was, like me, hauling cord wood to town, I took a curve in North Red Deer at too great a clip and centrifugal force just bulged my nicely piled load, then scattered the most of it along the road, while a now gleeful French-Canadian shouted an insulting, "Who put now, Who put now." as he sailed triumphantly by.

There was a girl who filled me with enviable admiration in those days as she dashed around the neighbourhood on bare horse back, like the spirit of the wild, such easy flowing motion, such grace was a treat to behold but a mystery to me how she maintained her poise and balance without benefit of a saddle while I could scarcely stay on the back of a walking horse fully saddled. The name of this accomplished equestrian I later discovered was Miss Ruth Atkins, always associated in my mind with Diana, the goddess of the woods.

A lady of those days, and I use the word "Lady" advisedly for she was the embodiment of all we associate with a lady was Mrs. Hannah Reed, Superintendent of the Sunday School, held in the little red school every Sunday afternoon under the auspices of the Baptist Church in Red Deer but strictly inter-denominational. "Kind, kind and gentle was she" with a knowledge of life that made her sympathetic and very understanding, how-be-it with a sound business training which made her a power for good in the district, admired by all and loved by many.

The Mecca and rendezvous of many of the young folks of the district in those days was the home of Mrs. Bone, who with her undoubted flair for organization and four charming daughters, dominated much of the social life of the locality. The death of her youngest daughter, Theoliner, at the age of 13 was a tragedy as she was developing a particularly pleasant singing voice and was using it to give pleasure to others at a time when we had to depend on our local resources for entertainment; Mrs. Bone's eldest daughter, Mina, was a gifted musician and presided at the organ for church and Sunday school and the numerous concerts which were so popular in those

days, many of which originated at the Bone home. No concert was complete without the name of Evelyn Bone appearing on the program, whose outstanding rendition of Dr. Drummond's poems always brought down the house, no less than did her songs which were anticipated and enjoyed as only gems of melody could be.

I have no recollection of Christina Bone taking part in any concert though she most likely did, my strongest impression of her was with her Aunt's baby in her arms, which I thought was a most beautiful picture (should I mention that I was only a few years her senior and very impressionable at that age?)

Houses were mostly built of logs in those days, but were real homes with their intimacy, warmth, cheerfulness and hospitality. Money was a scarce commodity, but jolly companionship, close friendship and a willingness to serve others, made material wealth of little consequence.

Today there are many evidences of the material success of many of those early settlers or their children and more so of the people who took over later, but on trying to recall the success of the old timers, often only the ashes remain, the flame of endeavour is forgotten, the courage of those pioneers is overlooked in our haste and pursuit of tomorrow.

Recollections of Poplar Ridge by the late Mrs. Wigmore

When I first came to this country in 1908, I was much impressed by the primitive conditions and open country.

Most of the homes were built of logs by the men who lived in them; there were very few fences and mostly trails instead of roads which wound around sloughs, hills or thick patches of bush but seldom straight.

About four months before my arrival, my parents had bought the Perrier homestead where, I believe, a Mr. McDonald now lives. They had decided on that place because it looked like a well equipped farm with a comfortable house and buildings for the animals and as Mother said, "The cow barn even had a weather vane on it." And it reminded her of home.

Alas the place was burnt down before they were properly settled. The family escaping with only their night clothes that they were wearing.

My mother often used to speak of the great kindness of all her neighbors and the merchants of Red Deer at the time of their adversity.

Our neighbors at that time were: Mrs. Bone with her four daughters of whom two are still living, Mrs. Peterson at Tannis Siding and Mrs. Cole in Red Deer. Living across the road from Mrs. Bone were Mr. and

Mrs. Martin who later sold out and went to Creston, British Columbia.

At the end of our road to Red Deer, cornering what is now the Number 11 Highway, lived Mr. Bill Atkins and his family. The next house east belonged to Mr. Levi Atkins, brother of Bill. A little further along lived Mr. and Mrs. Strong, on the south side of the road.

At the top of the big hill (it seemed bigger then) lived the Fishers. All their buildings were faced with bricks. I understand Mr. Fisher used to cut wood and exchange it for bricks from the brickyard in Red Deer.

The next farm belonged to the Hazlett family and I believe the old log house still stands. I remember Mr. Hazlett telling me that he, his sons, by themselves bushed out the first three miles of the road from Red Deer to his homestead, but that other homesteaders helped with the remaining two miles. I imagine they come from Ireland about 1894. Down the north trail from Hazletts, Mr. Henry Hart homesteaded and Mr. Plum, Sr. Mr. Hart, afterwards, built the large square frame house that now stands on the south side of the Red Deer road.

On the road north of Poplar Ridge Hall lived Dr. Banton, who bought his quarter from a Mr. Mitchell. Mr. Bill Smith, a war veteran, bought it from the doctor. I believe it now belongs to Mr. Bill Maga. Next in line Mr. Ed Bowen and family lived there. The place is now owned by Sam Bahler.

Where Mr. Mike Maga now lives originally built by Mr. Columbus Larson and later tenanted by Mr. Evanson, a Norwegian.

The old Whitcher place was homesteaded by Mr. John Eggen, who is now retired and lives in Calgary.

In those days, so long ago, there was plenty of social life. There would be dances at one or the other of the homesteaders' homes most Friday nights. The

only charge being "Ladies, please bring cakes," and the hat passed around to pay the musician: a half-breed by the name of Narcise Marion.

There were box socials and pie socials, school and church concerts. Church services, also, and all held in the Poplar Ridge school house.

In the summer time there would be picnics to Sylvan Lake, (Snake Lake it was called then), berry picking parties, fishing parties, etc., etc. Life was not dull.

There was more visiting done then, either by horseback, buggy or wagon riding, even walking.

Yes, it was a good life — not much money — but lots of fun.

Early Days of Poplar Ridge District by the late Mrs. Doig

The Poplar Ridge School District, No. 772, was formed in 1903. The first board were all "Williams": Wm. Werner, Wm. Prevo and Wm. Atkins were the first trustees and Wm. Stewart was the secretary treasurer. When applying to the Department of Education for a school district to be formed, a name had to be chosen and Wm. Stewart suggested "Poplar Ridge" on the application form and this name was accepted by the Department.

Land was purchased from George Norris (Berry farm) and a building was erected at a cost of around \$1,200. I cannot recall the name of the contractor but Mr. J. McIntosh built the brick chimney.

In those days all the children and most of the teachers rode horseback to school so a barn was needed for the ponies and Morrison Archibald built the first stable.

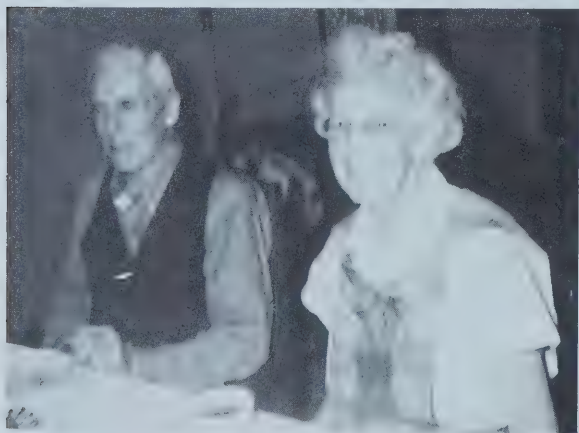
In September, 1904, school was opened with Mrs. Annie L. Stephenson, an attractive young red-head, from Ontario in charge of about 25 or 30 pupils. Some of them almost grown up.

Other early teachers were: Miss Mae Anderson of Ontario, Miss Lilly Tinglay from Nova Scotia and Mr. L. Smith from Delburne.

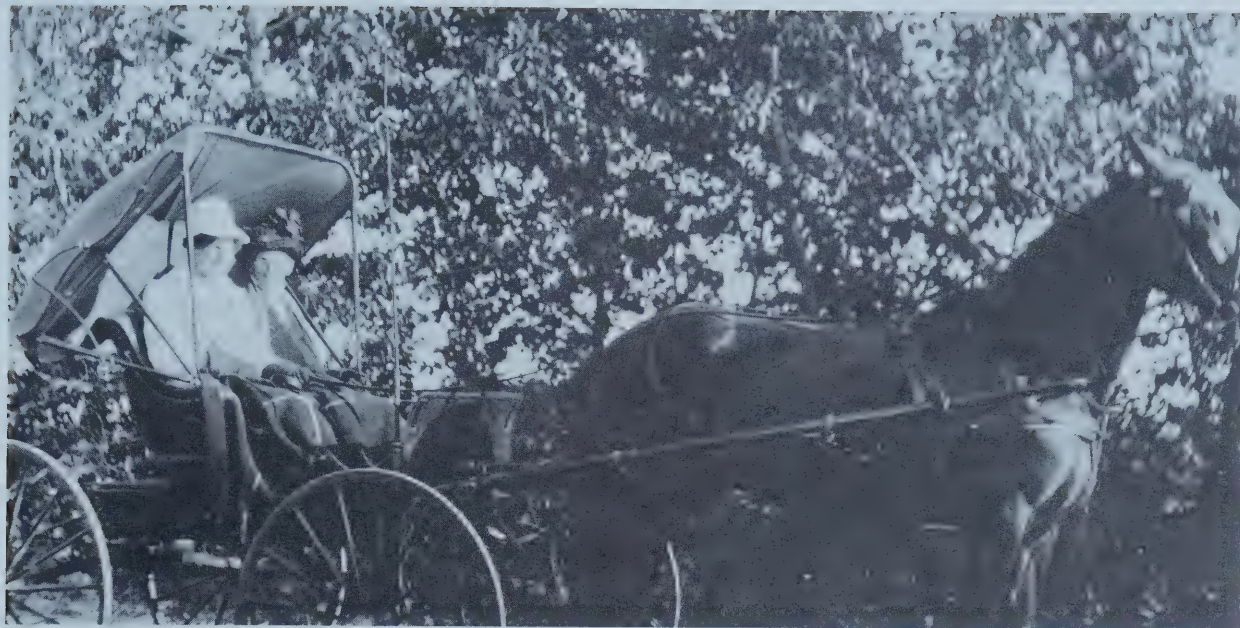
In the beginning, the old school boasted a bell on the roof and the day the bell was hoisted into place was quite an occasion. People from all over the district came and brought eats and had a picnic complete with ball games and races, etc.

Roads for the most part were just trails that followed the highest ground, crossing sloughs and muddy spots at the narrowest points. What is now known as No. 11 Highway to Sylvan Lake was then just a wagon trail carved out of the bush by axes, not brush cutters and the Christian hill was then known as Fishers Hill.

Many of the early settlers chose their building sites with complete disregard for road allowances



Mr. and Mrs. Ed Wigmore, 1960.



Bertha Doig and her mother, Mrs. Stewart.

which were mostly solid bush and sloughs. This was before horse and buggy days. The principle mode of transportation was a good husky team hitched to a high wheeled barn wagon with triple box topped by a spring seat. There was good reason for those high wheels as stumps had to be gotten over and mud holes and sometimes rivers to ford whenever the ice break-up took the bridge out.

Poplar Ridge land was mostly covered by timber and the main source of income for the homesteaders was by selling wood. The power house in Red Deer used wood almost exclusively and hundreds of cords were hauled from the district. The ring of axes and sleigh bells could be heard on the frosty air all winter long.

Another sound that is missing now is cow bells. In the old days there were no herd laws and very few fences, so the milk cow and work horses carried lots of bells as they had all outdoors to graze in and keeping track of one's livestock was one of the big problems of that day.

To name a few of the original homesteaders, there were: the Austins, Atkins, Archibalds, Bones, Baileys, Perrier, Strong, Norris, Fishers, Richs, Lees, Werner, Brownriggs and Stewarts.

Three Poplar Ridge boys lost their lives in the first Great War, 1914-1918: George Atkins, Ivan Fisher and Ray East and there may be others.

Church services were held in the school in the first years by Reverend Rice and later by Reverend Arthur Barner, both being Principals of the Indian School.

Poplar Ridge School, No. 772

Poplar Ridge School, No. 772 was opened in September, 1904. Miss Connie L. Stephenson was the first teacher with between 25 and 30 pupils.

In later years, the bell that had been originally on the roof of the school was removed and placed on the front porch that was later added to the school.

Church services were held in the early years with Rev. Rice as the minister and later by Rev. Arthur Barner. Both ministers were Principals at the Indian School.

In 1943, the old school was moved away and a new two roomed building was erected. The old school was moved to the Austin Farm and used for a barn. The bell was around the Austin yard for some years but was eventually sold to the Pine Hill Hutterites for a dinner bell. The Centennial Committee at Poplar Ridge made enquiries about buying back the bell and putting it in the Community Centre yard, but to their sorrow they learned that the bell had cracked and was no where to be found — probably sold for scrap iron.

In 1949-1950, there were twenty-four pupils being taught by Mr. W. I. Barnett. A man with 16 years teaching experience.

Mr. Sam Davidson became teacher in 1950/51. He had 26 pupils. In 1952, there were twenty-nine. By 1958, the school had grown to thirty-four pupils with Mr. Davidson still teaching. Incidentally, Mr. Davidson, with his twenty odd years teaching experience always received Excellent Inspector's Reports.

In January, 1959, Poplar Ridge went the way of most Alberta country schools. It was closed and Sam Davidson went to teach at Sylvan Lake but continued to live at the teacherage until the summer. The following children were then transported to River Glen by bus: Darleen Bertram, Dorian Bertram, John Johansen, Grace Johansen, Gerald Robinson, Edward Straub, Gordon Straub, Rhonda Lowis and Dorothy Butler.

The school was bought by the rate payers of the community in 1961 for \$750. and was used for a Community Centre until 1976. When a nice new modern hall was built. The school was moved and now serves as a home north of Sylvan Lake.

Some of the secretary-treasurers who served during the years: 1903- William Stewart; 1909- Frederick B. Fisher; 1933-1936-37 — E. S. Finch; 1939- R. De Pauw; 1945- R. Pearson; 1950-1952 — Mrs. H Brackney; 1953-56 — J. B. Moore; 1956 — Mrs. D. Berry; 1957-59 — Mrs. J. Lowis.

A list of teachers at the school. Early list is not complete: La Rue Smith taught Margaret Rogers in 1908. Miss Violet Atwater taught in 1911. The year King George and Queen Mary were crowned and all the children received medals. Mrs. Gladys DeMas still has hers. Boswell was a teacher from England with ten children. Sharples was a very good teacher who taught about 1913. Mr. Sands was a return man. Mrs. Demas remembers as children how they fished him from a pond after he had fallen through the ice while skating near the school. In 1919 Miss A. B. Anderson was teaching. Her family lived on the farm that was later purchased by Mr. McLeod, Sr. Miss Sarah Coustance, Tilly Tingley were also teachers.

Mary Harper	1922/23	37
Eber Crummy	1923/24	35
Hilda Soderman	1924/25	42
Rose Walt	1926	29
Pearl Mitchell	1927/28	31
M. C. Miller	1928/29	29
Madge Einarson	1929/30	30
Dora M. Bjelke	1931/33	35
Helen Neilson	1934/40	30 to 44
Mabel Nash	1941/43	30 to 39
Grades 1 to 6 in new two-roomed school.		
Mr. G. Mathias	Grades 7 to 11	26
Audrey Schafer	1944/45	29
Grades 1 to 6		
Eileen White	1944	20
Grades 7 to 11		
A. Anderson	1945	15
Grades 1 to 6		
Nadine Haluschuk	1946/48	37
Grades 1 to 8		
Mr. Ed Barnett	1949	25
Mr. Sam Davidson	1950/58	34

Miss Connie Wilson was also an early teacher at Poplar Ridge. She married Orley Austin.

Mr. Crummy taught in 1923-24. He quit the teaching profession and went into the Insurance business in Red Deer. At that time, he was married and had one child.

Miss Rose Walt started the school term from September to January then Miss Pearl Mitchell finished the term and taught 1927-28. She married Ed Bruntlett around 1935. Mr. Bruntlett was from England and he rented land around the district. He did some custom breaking. They had a son who lived around Stettler. After Mrs. Bruntlett was widowed, she went back teaching.

Mr. G. Mathias married Fern Surrat and they lived in the Bentley area. They had no family.

Miss Eileen White taught high school for the 1944-45 term with Miss Audrey Schaefer teaching the lower grades. They lived in the teacherage. She later married Charles King and moved to Bolder, Colorado, where Charles is a Professor at the University of Colorado. They have three daughters.

Miss Nadine Haluschuk came from Vilna, Alberta, to teach at Poplar Ridge for two years from 1946-48. She married Don Morrison from the Shady Nook district and they have six children.

Mr. Ed Barnett taught for one year. He was a married man with three children.

Sam Davidson was the last teacher at Poplar Ridge. He encouraged the children to plant trees around the school yard and teacherage. They are still growing and continue to shade and shelter the new Community Centre.

As this book goes to press, a new Poplar Ridge Elementary School is being built at a new site on the Jensen property. It is scheduled to be opened in August, 1981.



Back row, L. to R.: Loretta Austin. Second row: Edith Kirkland, Elsie Holbrook, Esther Staples, Edna Strong, ? . Front row: Gladys Werner, Annie, Jim and Clarence Werner.

Poplar Ridge School

DISTRICT NO. 772

Red Deer, Alta

June 30, 1920



Kenneth Madison,
Teacher

School Board

Fred Neilson
Alex. McBlane

Chairman
Geo. Norris

PUPILS

FIRST GRADE

Gordon McBlane George Christian
Clifford Whitehead

Isabelle McBlane Roger Neilson
Raymond Havens Eveline Hart

SECOND GRADE

Wilfird Whitehead

THIRD GRADE

Helen Neilson Beatrice Veal
Edith Hannecart Harry Hart

FOURTH GRADE

Edith Kirkland George Anderson
Arthur Austin Helen Veal

May Burns

FIFTH GRADE

Muriel Finch Hugh Havens
Doris Hart John Burns

SIXTH GRADE

Loretta Austin Lovina Hart
Edith Hart Esther Staples

William Anderson

SEVENTH GRADE

May Anderson

EIGHTH GRADE

Vera Austin Hylda Hart
Fannie Burns



Installation of School Bell, 1904.



Poplar Ridge School students about 60 years ago.



Poplar Ridge School with new porch.



Back row, L. to R.: ?, ?, Millard Austin. Second Row: Ethel Staples, Ena Holbrook, Beatrice Holbrook, Florence Holbrook. Front row: Vera Austin, Lily Prevor, Mabel Soderman, Leah Staples.



Annabell Anderson's pupils, 1921. Esther Staples, Edith Kirkland, Hilda Hart, Fanny Burns, Edith Hart, Doris Hart, Hugh Havens, Anderson boy, Maizie Burns, Helen Veal, Evelyn Hart, Wally Hart, Velma Veal, Edna Christian, Alberta Veal, Beatrice Veal, Harry Hart, Telford Kirkland, George Christian.



Back row, L. to R.: Hilda Hart, Muriel Finch, Esther Staples, May Anderson, Edith Hannecart, Loretta Austin, Helen Veal. Second row: Helen Neilson, Edith Kirkland, Maizie Burns, Isobel McBlane, Beatrice Veal, Eveline Hart. Front row: Wallace Hart, George Anderson, Arthur (Buster) Austin, Jim Anderson, Hugh Havens, John Burns, ?, Roger Neilson, Harry Hart, Archie McBlane. Teacher was Anna Anderson (not in photo).



Class of 1926. Rose Walt, teacher. Bottom, L. to R.: Robert DePauw, Lucille Murphy, Archie McBlane, Alec McLeod, Bobby Woof. Second row: Norman McLeod, Charles Brown, ?, ?. Third row: Telford Kirkland, Edna Christian, Joan Finch, Albert Brown, Mabel Langley, Margaret Murphy. Fourth row: Marion McLeod, Beatrice De Smet, Dick Woof, Helen Belich, George Christian, Harry Hart, Noel Langley, Gordon McBlane, Hal Thompson.



Year 1942-43. Back row, L. to R.: Mrs. Nash (teacher), Byron Soley, Bob Stewart, Ella Nyman, Roberta Pearson, Mary MacDonnel, Evelyn McGovern, Mary Soley, Mary Stewart, Frances Pearson, Arnold DePauw. Second row: Bill Stewart, Joan Harvey, Willemenia Solomans, Eva Clarkson, Marie Roth, Kay Archibald, Margaret Harvey, Jenny Solomans, Odette DePauw, Sam Solomans, Phil Roth. First row: Johnny Malinic, Harry Solomans, Johnny Clarkson, Gary Archibald, Betty Demas, Eva Soley, Willy Buga, Frank Roth, Maurice DePauw, Herman Solomans.



Helen Neilson's Class, 1939 or 1940. Back row, L. to R.: Kathy MacEachen, Amel Demas, Marjorie Lagrow, Marguarite Phillion, Helen Neilson (teacher), Ann Malinic, Martha Belich, Mary Soley, Erma Chizamazia. Second row: Joanne MacEachan, Evelyn McGovern, Roberta Pearson, Anne and Mary McDonnell, Margaret Harvey, Percy Belich, Anne Demas, Arnold DePauw. Third row: Odette DePauw, Frances Pearson, Jean Minty, Willy Buga, Delina MacEachen, Eva Phillion, Byron Soley, John MacEachen, Harold Pearson, Fred Minty.



Flowers to cheer the classroom.



The new Poplar Ridge School.



Mrs. Nash's Junior Room, 1943-44.



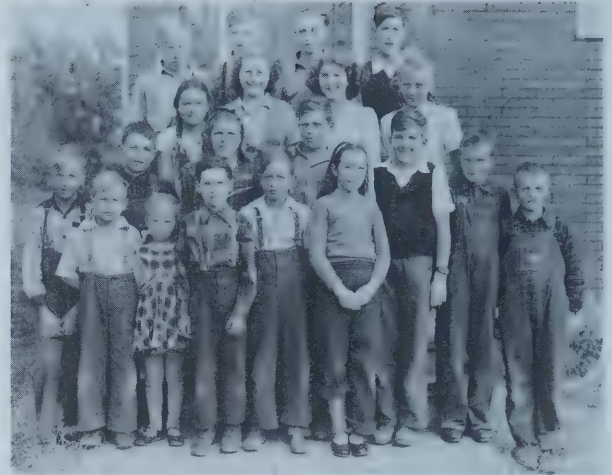
School Class, 1943-44. Back row, L. to R.: Marie Roth, Mary Stewart, Ann McDonnell, Gwen Neilson, Marg Harvey, Frances Pearson, Lois McBlane, Mary Soley. Second row: Buddy Neilson, Evelyn McGovern, Winston Peterson, Bob Stewart, Esther Pearson, Byron Soley. Third row: Kay Archibald, Joan Harvey, Jenny Solomons. Teacher: Mr. Mathias.



Poplar Ridge primary grades, 1945-46. Back row, L. to R.: Ross Harvey, Harry Warren, Gary Archibald, John Malinic, Harry Solamons, Edith Clarkson, Eva Soley, Betty Demas, Miss Schaefer. Middle row: Frank Roth, Herman Solamon, Harold Pulver, Louis Maga, Verda Clarkson, Vera Clarkson, Mary Malinic, Joyce Archibald, Catherine Solamons. Front row: Adrian Clarkson, Sam Pulver, Kenneth Demas, Jimmy Archibald, Benny Demas, Jack Soley, Wealtha Hannecart.



Classroom in Poplar Ridge.



Class of 1947-48. Miss Haluschuk, teacher. Back row, L. to R.: Gary Archibald, Johnny Malinic, Maurice DePauw, Harry Warren. Second row: Joyce Archibald, Betty Demas, Mary Malinic. Third row: Mervin Austin, Louis Maga, Kathy Solomons, Harry Solomons, Ross Harvey, Sam and Harold Pulver. Fourth row: Robin Archibald, Jean Roth, Ben Demas, Jim Archibald, Wealtha Hannecart.



1953 School Class. Sam Davidson, teacher. Back row, L. to R.: Gail Robinson, Betty Johansen, Carol Bertram, Mary Johansen, Teresa Sparks, Martha Maga, Andy Maga, David Sparks. Second row: Carol Christie, Ruth Johansen, Darlene Raven, Mertle Soderberg, Louis Maga, Jean Thompson, Beth Thompson, Charlotte Davidson, John Percival. Front row: Ed-die Christie, John Davidson, Elaine Moore, Billy Woof, Iris Maga, Donald Mitchell, Linda Maga, Allan Moore.



New school under construction in the spring of 1981 at Poplar Ridge.



Last Class in Poplar Ridge School, 1957-58. Back row, L. to R.: G. Robinson, J. Johansen, L. Hawkens, D. Bertram, D. Bertram, E. Ross. Middle row: R. Ross, R. Lowis, G. Johansen, B. Hawkens, G. Straub, J. Hansen. Front row: E. Straub, M. Hansen, J. Davidson.

Agnes Anderson

The year 1945-46 stands out as one of the happiest of my teaching career. It was the year spent teaching grades 7 to 11 in Poplar Ridge. My home was in Shady Nook, so, for the most time, I drove from there.

On my way to school, I often picked up children. Sometimes, beginning at Archibalds, I ended up with seven or eight children packed into my Model A coupe. If we got stuck in the snow, all but the smallest jumped out and pushed.

The students were a wonderful group. Mary Stewart — alone in Grade 11 — had to do most of her work by correspondence because the Department of Education ruled that no teacher should teach that many High School Credits.

We had an old cookstove in my room. The children brought potatoes to bake for lunch. Once in a while an exploding potato caused some excitement.

Braithwaite, Audrey Pauline (nee Schaefer)

I was born and raised in the Innisfail district, completed my High School in Olds and attended the Calgary Normal School in 1941-42.

On October the 2nd, 1944, I began, what was to be, two of the happiest years of my teaching career. I had been assigned the Junior Room, Grades I-VI inclusive, in the Poplar Ridge School #772. There were twenty-seven pupils, the first year, and twenty-nine registered the second year of 1945-46. Miss Eileen White taught the Senior Room in 1944-45 and Miss Agnes Anderson in 1945-6. The Junior Room occupied the main floor while the Senior Room was in the basement area.

During the war years it was difficult to obtain harvest help on the farms so in 1944 we did not begin the fall term until October. This was to free the senior students during the harvest month of September. We then continued on in the month of July, completing the school year on July 5th, 1945.

There were always many activities to become involved with in the rural communities during those years. We had the usual ball games, Hallowe'en, Valentine's parties, annual Christmas concert, social events, and year end picnic at the school, as well as an organized sport's day in the spring. This included many of the neighboring school districts.

I enjoyed very good pupil participation in all phases of our school activities as well as excellent co-operation from all the parents involved. This, I appreciated very much.

As it was a two-roomed school, any minor discipline problems that did arise were shared by the two teachers involved. The two of us lived in a teacherage on the school premises and needed our wood supply, as well as the schools, replenished occasionally. We found that the chore of carrying a few armfuls of wood, to either place, served the punishment of many misdemeanors most efficiently.

Our annual Christmas concert was always the main event of the year. It was excellent training for the students and a valuable experience of performing before an audience. The concerts were put on in the old Poplar Ridge Hall on Highway 11. It was not an easy task for either the students or the teachers to march the mile and a half up to the hall for the final practices. The hall was always cold at such times as it took considerable time for the heat from the old furnace at the back of the hall to reach the platform where the students were practicing their numbers. However, when the final night arrived it had not affected the enthusiasm and the commendable performance that was always presented. Many parents also helped out in many ways at this time of the year; which was greatly appreciated by the teachers and students of the school. Mrs. Robert Pearson played the piano for many of our musical numbers.

Santa Claus was a main attraction at our Christmas concerts. I shall never forget the year a friend of mine from Innisfail, by the name of Borden Fisher, did the honors and had to run for his life, after the concert, from the senior students who were bound to find out who he was. They didn't catch him, if I remember correctly, and had to wait until school resumed in January when we wrote his name on the board for them. It did create a bit of fun but poor Santa did not realize the position all this had placed him in, I'm sure.

We had many good times, as well as good

humored incidents during the school years there. One I remember in particular, was the day I was writing the spelling on the blackboard during the morning recess break; when suddenly I felt the whole room fill with students. I looked around, and there running towards me was a frightened little mouse. My effort to show them how brave I was lasted about one half a minute. I then dashed for the girl's cloak-room. I wasn't safe for long! Under the door appeared my little friend. I had a broom and with one well aimed swat ended his ill-fated journey. Miss White, who had gone to the teacherage during the break, came back and returned everyone to order. The senior student responsible, prompted by his mother I'm sure, apologized the next morning and we have had many good laughs about it since.

We had a ball diamond at the school where not only did the school children enjoy ball games with other schools but the local Sports Club held many evening and weekend games as well. In the winter time, the skating rink was made with the help of students and other members of the district. Here again, many good games were held in competition with the other teams.

It was during my second year there, in 1945-46, that the first 4H Girl's Clothing Club was organized under the leadership of Miss Agnes Anderson, teacher of the Senior Room, and the District Home Economist. I had the honor of being president of the Club the first year. Mary Soley was our efficiency winner for the year and attended 4H club Week at the Olds School of Agriculture the following summer as a result. It was at that Mary won a \$75.00 scholarship toward payment of her expenses while attending O.S.A. later.

A school paper was assembled and printed under the direction of Miss White and the senior students with the junior students contributing articles prepared by the class. It was called The Poplar Ridge Press and we printed them in at the Nazarene College in Red Deer.

I was a member of the Poplar Ridge Sports Club which was very active. It supplied many social functions for the young people of the district. During the early spring months, in 1946, the Sports Club presented a three act comedy play entitled "Aunt Bessie Beats the Band". Our first performance was in the Poplar Ridge Hall on April 22, followed by a dance. We took in the sum of \$106.00. The next presentation was at Sylvan Lake of May 30th and the final one at Penhold on June the 19th, 1946.

I will always treasure the happy memories I have from the two years I spent in the Poplar Ridge district. The many thoughtful things the parents and residents of the district did for us will always be

remembered. Their help with the many costumes that had to be made for the Christmas concert, as well as the lunch they provided for the social activities at the school was very much appreciated. Many provided transportation for us as few teachers during those years could afford a car of their own. We were never forgotten on a long weekend and spent many happy times at the homes of the following people: Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Wiley, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Harvey, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Maga, Mr. and Mrs. Soley, Mr. and Mrs. McGovern, as well as being invited to all the homes of the students at one time or another during the school term.

We walked the half mile from the teacherage to the corner, where Mr. and Mrs. Mike Reevesz operated the Mid Way Service Station, to get our mail and the coal oil supply for our lamps. We also got the milk from Mr. and Mrs. Buga, who lived at that corner also. Mr. and Mrs. MacDonell were our nearest neighbors and helped us out on many occasions.

It was while teaching at Poplar Ridge that I met George Braithwaite of the Shady Nook district who had just returned from having completed a tour of operations overseas with the Canadian Air Force. He attended the Olds School of Agriculture for two years while I taught in the Olds Public School. Upon George's graduation, we were married at Gaetz Memorial United Church in Red Deer in July, 1948. We have made our home in several areas in Alberta: namely, Shady Nook district, Calgary, Vermilion, Ponoka and are now farming in the Nisbet district, east of Bowden. George is a director and second vice-president of the Alberta Wheat Pool and I still do substitute teaching as I have done in the different districts we have lived in.

We have a family of two boys — William Robert (Bob), Donald Earl, a daughter, Janice Marie (Soderberg). We now have four grandchildren.

William Robert (Bob) lives at Clive. He married Marlene Snoxell of Strathmore. They have two children, a boy, Robert Lon, and a girl, Catherine Leigh.

Janice Marie (Soderberg) married Fredrick (Bud) Allan Soderberg and are living at Clive. They have two children, a boy, Albert Troy, and a girl, Cari Marie.

Donald Earl is a driller with different oil companies.

Davidson: Samuel Duncan; teacher at Poplar Ridge School

September, 1950 — December, 1958

by Mrs. M. Davidson

The Davidson family, Sam, Molly, and children, Charlotte — age five years — and John — two and a half years old, moved from Eureka Valley School,



Davidson, Sam.

near Joffre, to the Poplar Ridge teacherage in August, 1950.

Sam was born and raised in Lacombe and took his teacher's training at Camrose Normal School. His first school was Central S. D. No. 519, just three miles east of Lacombe where he taught from September, 1927 until 1939. He went to Eureka Valley S. D. No. 2160, southeast of Lacombe and taught there until the end of June, 1950. Sam and Molly (Mary Ann Gauld) were married in October, 1941; my home was in the next district of Brooksley, where I grew up and attended school.

When we moved to Poplar Ridge, the teacherage had been enlarged by two more rooms. It was comfortable but very cold until the walls and ceiling were filled with insulation. How pleased we all were when the school and teacherage were wired and hooked up to the electricity. It surely helped to have a good light for the card parties and social activities.

Unfortunately, there never was a telephone on the school road all the time we lived there. The closest telephone was at the Midway Store and Service Station, so we depended on the kindness of Knut Johanson and family to deliver any important messages.

During those first few years it was very wet in the summer and lots of snow in the winter time, thus when the water level rose it caused problems — like the school basement flooding and having to be pumped out. One night we were awakened by a funny sound coming from the cellar. When we opened the trap door, there were all the empty sealers floating around, clanking against each other and the salamanders were climbing up the steps! It wasn't until the drainage ditch under Highway 11 was opened that the water level dropped. It took years for the cellar to dry out. While the highway was being rebuilt, the country roads were in terrible condition. Nevertheless, the community spirit never faltered and many happy social events carried on at the school: card parties, dances, box socials and anniversaries were celebrated.

The first Christmas concert that Sam's pupils produced was a big event in the community as it was held in the Poplar Ridge Hall. Such a crowd turned out from the surrounding districts there weren't enough treats to go around. Thereafter, if possible, the concerts were held in the school on the same night as Norma School or Crossroads School concert. The students always took part in the Sports Day held at the ball park at Sylvan Lake, and when these grounds were not available, it was held at Poplar Ridge School. There were about nine schools taking part when one of the largest crowds came for Sports Day in 1955. A team of men from each district came and helped prepare race tracks and jump pits a few days before hand. The teachers and parents supervised the events for each age group. The noon hour was like a big picnic while the teacherage was turned into a nursery. We all felt sorry for Charlotte Francis, Duncan McBlane's granddaughter, who, after winning every event in her age group with just one more to go, stopped for lunch hour. Then she broke out in a classic case of measles and had to drop out as she became quite ill.

Sam taught an Agriculture course, and I remember how willing the students were to work, and their eventual pride in preparing the grounds for a lawn, planting shrubs and flowers. They brought slips from houseplants and had a colorful display during the winter months in the school room.

The parents came to help rebuild the fences, trim the hedges and repair the skating rink. The Red Deer School Division never turned down a request for painting or repairing the buildings. Eventually, Poplar Ridge School and grounds became a source of pride for the community and the School Division with its well kept, parklike grounds. One Sunday afternoon, we returned from a drive to find a family having a picnic supper on the school lawn. They had turned off the busy highway to find a quiet spot and really appreciated the convenient facilities close by.

The school enrollment in the early '50's was about 30 students with nine grades, but during the next few years the attendance would fluctuate as families moved in and out of the district. When the school bus routes were upgraded, the Junior High pupils went to River Glen School. In September, 1958, with only about ten students enrolled, the school was closed at the end of December and all students went to River Glen School and Composite High School. Sam was transferred to Sylvan Lake, where he took over one of the Grade IX classes, but we continued to live in the teacherage at Poplar Ridge until the end of October, 1959.

Our nine years at Poplar Ridge were happy, busy years and the children had the benefit of growing up



Laurie, Mary, John, Lisa, Molly Davidson, Barbara, Michelle, Glen, Charlotte Murray.

in a rural atmosphere. John spent his Saturdays at the neighbors' farms, learning and helping with dairy and mixed farming. He used the empty school barns to raise chickens, turkeys, and ducks, while Charlotte was active in 4-H Garden Club and Clothing Club along with her girl friends.

I enjoyed my participation with the Women's Institute programs. I remember the time Bill Maga and Joe Lowis took members to Sim's Auction Mart on a very rainy day. We were given the privilege of providing and selling lunches all day long while the sale was in progress. The cooking area and counter facilities were very crowded, and not set up for proper food service. It was customary for women's groups in the Red Deer area to take turns as a means of raising money for their own special project. Oh, our aching backs and feet!

I remember the big blizzard when highway and side roads were blocked, how the children enjoyed a ride on John Warren's stone boat as he drove his team through the fields up the highway. The J. D. McGillevary's were at the Service Station and their son, Donny, became somewhat of a hero when his big dog "Sandy" pulled him on the toboggan across country to North Red Deer Store. Sandy was a favorite with the children as under Mrs. McGillevary's instructions and whistles he would pull the children from the skating rink nearly up to the highway and back again. Sometimes the child fell off when Sandy turned a little short on making the return trip, but that was all part of the fun of an afternoon at the skating rink.

It doesn't really seem twenty-five years ago when the district folk gathered one night on the roadside at Brackney's Hill to light our big bonfire as many other districts were doing to celebrate Alberta's Golden

Jubilee. We cooked wieners and marshmallows, sang songs, and visited until late in the evening. Sam and Dora Stewart were the only ones present who had lived in Alberta when it was still the Northwest Territories.

I remember the month of June, 1952, when it rained every day except Sports Day and Community Picnic Day — just lucky I guess.

Members of the Women's Institute and children of the 4H Clubs contributed to the Red Deer Fair with work in art, handicraft, sewing, and garden produce. Charlotte and John won many prizes in the grain and hay classes, and when Fred Vincent questioned them about where they farmed, he was told that the best alfalfa, brome and timothy hay came from the road allowance, and their grain was grown on the Joe Lowis farm.

When we moved to Sylvan Lake, Charlotte and John continued school in Red Deer until they finished High School. Charlotte attended University in Edmonton and graduated with her Bachelor of Science in Medical Laboratory Technology. After working in hospitals in Prince George, B.C., Edmonton, and Calgary as a laboratory technologist, she married Glen Murray of Sylvan Lake. They live in Calgary with their two daughters, Michelle and Barbara, and Charlotte is an instructor at S.A.I.T. and her husband is a contractor.

John worked for Hagerman Brothers on their farm for a year, then got interested in the oil business. He took a course in Petroleum Engineering at S.A.I.T. and works for Dowell of Canada. He and his wife, the former Mary Cody of Willowdale district and Red Deer, live in Calgary with their two daughters, Lisa and Lori.

Sam retired in 1969 after teaching a Grade VI class at Sylvan Lake for several years and a total of 42 years in Central Alberta. He then became an adviser and letter writer for many senior citizens in and around Sylvan Lake. His health began to fail and he died on March 16th, 1977, at the Eckville hospital. It was a wonderful tribute to his years of teaching to see so many former students at his memorial service.

I had worked at Cobb's Store in Sylvan Lake for 13 years before retiring to become a full-time homemaker, gardener, and neighbor; also, I have managed to do a bit of travelling these past few years to Europe, across Canada and Australia.

Our years at Poplar Ridge will always be memorable for the quality of our experiences and lasting friendships, found only in an active and participating rural district. They were truly the good years in our life time.

Miss Madge Einarson

Miss Madge Einarson, who lived in the Centreville district south of Sylvan Lake taught school at Poplar Ridge in the school year 1929-30.

She was in charge of 30 pupils.

She boarded with the Bill Marten family who lived on S.E. ¼ of Sec. 3-39-28-W of the 4th M., now owned by H. Stamm.

She walked a distance of 1½ miles to school.

The Martens lived in a two storey log house, two rooms upstairs and two downstairs. She paid one dollar a day for board and room.

The Martens had two children, a boy three years and a girl five years old.

She relates the people of Poplar Ridge were very friendly.

On weekends George Fitch who also lived south of Sylvan Lake, and was courting Miss Einarson, would come and pick her up by cutter, which was drawn by Fanny, the horse, a distance of about twelve miles and take her home.

They also would give Mrs. Soderman, who lived up the road a ways a ride into Sylvan Lake, where she was giving piano lessons.

George stated that Madge and Mrs. Soderman did so much chattering that Fanny, who was high strung anyways, really stepped up her pace into Sylvan Lake.

George and Madge were married in November of 1930 and have lived southwest of Sylvan Lake ever since. They have raised a family of four, two boys and two girls.

The people of Poplar Ridge had presented Madge with a plate when she left the district and she still has it in her possessions.

Random Thoughts of a Poplar Ridge School Teacher

by Helen Farewell

I taught seven years at the Poplar Ridge School during the height of the Depression.

I always found the parents to be very kind, cooperative and generous.

We had a nice social life, visiting in the children's homes, holding school picnics and Christmas concerts, card parties, Easter, Valentines parties were enjoyed.

Needless to say the supplies, equipment were very hard to come by.

The school was extremely cold and of course no lights except when gas lanterns were brought in.

The children walked or rode horses to school.

The children too co-operated by helping each other with the horses, boosting small ones on, etc. sharing lunches.

Lunches and ink, drinking water were often frozen.

The children took good care of the yard and we always had two "clean up" days followed by wiener roasts.

We enjoyed ball games with neighboring schools.

We had an "Elocution" Day at the Poplar Ridge Hall with the Cross Roads and Norma Schools participating. The Poplar Ridge School Students did exceptionally well.

Children were good to bring Nature Study specimens to school.

We endured epidemics of Scabies, measles, Mumps etc. and had inoculations, etc., from Red Deer Health Clinic under the late Dr. Little.

We took as many as were financially able to visit Queen Elizabeth and King George on their visit to Edmonton.

The horses were allowed to pasture in the school yard during the summer months.

School was never closed due to bad weather but attendance was poor during these times due to distances that the children travelled.

We took a lot of Physical training to warm up in the early mornings.

Windows were all on the north side and we enjoyed no "Solar Heat".

I had at least five "Student Teachers" do their "practice teaching" at the Poplar Ridge School.

I boarded at home and rode horseback three and a half miles to school in the winter. In the summer I sometimes drove the family car or walked one way. My father drove me to school if the car was needed.

I remember a car stopping us enroute to school one cold blustery day. The horses were very frightened by this occurrence and my father had difficulty in controlling them. The car driver opened his door and shouted, "The King has abdicated!" Needless to say my father wasn't very impressed!!

Most teachers I can remember boarded at Mrs. Finch's.

Dora M. Johanson (nee Dora Margaret Bjelke)

My father, Gustav Rheinholt Bjelke was born near Oslo, Norway in 1876. In 1876, his father and mother emigrated to Asele in Sweden where he received his education and later became timber inspector for that region. In the early 1900's, he met and married Lina Margaret Sehlstrom of Baskacle, Sweden.

Times were hard in Sweden at the turn of the century and hearing glowing reports of a new and promising land, he decided to emigrate to Canada in

1903. There he worked in various places on the railroad. A year later, Lina came. She attended the Burnt Lake school for a year to learn the English Language. They filed a homestead west of Evarts in the Diamond Valley district on the S.E. 4 38 5. For a year they lived in Golden, B.C., where my father again worked on the railroad and it was here where my oldest brother Gunnar was born. On their return to Diamond Valley, they found that their land was very low and flooded every spring. It seemed impossible to grow a good crop there as the frost seemed to get it every time. I remember going over to the Engman place in New Hill to plant potatoes and vegetables with my mother.

Five more children were born in Diamond. I was born October 24th, 1908, then came Carl, Ruth, Andren and Arthur. My youngest brother was born in 1921 after we came to Burnt Lake in 1920. There, my father had purchased the S.W. as well as 40 acres of the S.E. 10-38-5. There we lived in the old Hotel or stopping place. What a change for my mother who loved trees and across the road was a Baptist Church and a mission friend church as well as a school.

I took part of my schooling at Diamond Valley where I had Mrs. Scott Hastie for a teacher for a number of years and then Miss Burdick for a year. I'll always remember the frozen lunches we ate in the winter time. They were carried in Roger's Golden Syrup pails. I remember the sandwiches made of homemade bread with butter and syrup as filling. To this day I just don't relish Roger's Golden Syrup.

We had three miles to walk to school but with mother's home knit stockings and mittens, we seemed to survive the cold. I'll always remember the Christmas Concerts that Mrs. Scott Hastie put on. They were the highlight of the school year.

The rest of my public schooling was taken at Burnt Lake where I had Mrs. Olga Johanson as teacher to start with and then followed by Mrs. Plummer and Mrs. Edith Dallaire. What a pleasant change for us to have to go across the road to school and to run home at noon for a hot lunch.

I took my Grade IX by correspondence and then went to Sylvan Lake for my Grade X and worked for my board at Fred Appleton's. In those days a lot of girls worked for their board as they went to school and that's how I was able to get an education. The boys were not that fortunate. The following year, I went to Red Deer for the rest of my high school. There I stayed with D. C. Folk's for one year and then at R. L. Whitneys the following year. R. L. Whitney was principal at that time. Mr. Whitney always ran to school, never walked. I enjoyed my stay at the Whitneys' very much.

I took my teacher training at the Calgary Normal

School and after graduating was able to get a school in the fall at First Chance School which is eight miles south of Lamond. It was quite a change for me living out on the bald prairie, not a tree in sight. I only stayed there for the one year and furthermore my mother, having passed away suddenly two weeks after graduation from Normal, I wanted to teach closer to home if possible. My youngest brother, Harold, was only five years old when mother died. My sister, Ruth, who was going to High School at the time went home to look after the family which she did very nobly. We'll always be eternally grateful to her for what she did. Ruth was very gifted musically and otherwise, so, it was quite a sacrifice for her to make.

I was very fortunate in getting a school in the fall at Poplar Ridge, not too far from home. This was the beginning of the depression years and I considered myself very lucky to get this teaching job as many district's couldn't even afford to pay a teacher. I stayed in Poplar Ridge and enjoyed my stay there very much. The people were so friendly and co-operative in every way. Our school inspector was Mr. A. B. Gibson. He sort of made one tremble at the knees when he came in but we got along very well.

For recreation in the district there were the Whist parties held in the school and often in some of the homes. In the winter time, we had tobogganing down W. Woof's hill, sometimes followed by wiener roasts, and then there were the dances in the Poplar Ridge Hall.

I boarded with the MacEachern family for three years and the last year I stayed with the G. W. Christian family.

On the School Board were Mr. E. S. Finch as Sec. Treas., Mr. MacEachern as Chairman of the Board, and the other two on the board were Mr. W. Woof and Mr. A. Wilkins. A Parent Teacher's Assoc. was formed the last year I was in Poplar Ridge with Mrs. Woof as Pres. and Mr. Finch as Sec. I found this was a good thing in Poplar Ridge. There was no interference what so ever from the parents and we got along fine.

I remember one hectic experience I had while teaching here and that was when the 1934 hailstorm struck us and the children had just been dismissed to go home and I noticed this big hail storm coming our way. I quickly got the children to put their horses in the barn and come back into the school. They had no sooner got inside the school when it started hailing. I remember having the children hiding under desks with coats over their heads to avoid being cut by flying glass which was flying all over the room. I think nearly every pane of glass was broken. It was

quite a frightening experience while it lasted. The crops were hailed out 100% that year.

In the winter time, Axel used to come and get me after school on Friday in a cutter with a frisky team of drivers. They fairly sailed over the drifts across Burnt Lake and home. One Sunday evening when he was taking me back to Poplar Ridge it was very cold and I had bundled up real good, also took a hot water bottle with me to help keep me warm. Well, it all went very well until we hit some hard snow drifts by the Burnt Lake cemetery and the cutter tipped. We both fell out and I landed right on top of the lines and the horses stopped dead in their tracks. The hot water bottle burst. We managed to get the cutter right side up and were on our way again and soon reached Poplar Ridge that evening.

Axel and I were married July 18th, 1934, and settled on the W½ Sec. 6 38 28 W4. We, too, were completely hailed out that year, so financially it was a bad time to get married. Times on the farm were tough for a while. At first we lived in a very small house built from lumber taken from the old green house or the haunted house as it was sometimes called. Our family finally outgrew this dwelling and in 1950, we built a bigger house in which we live now.

As for the depression years, we didn't suffer too badly. I remember the hired men we had in those days, two or three at a time. Many of them came from Saskatchewan where people on the farms were really

hit hard. The government paid these men \$5.00 a month and gave the farmer \$5.00 a month for keeping them.

We often went to town with \$5.00 in our pocket and we'd have enough money to put our horses in the livery stable (located where the Valley Hotel now stands in Red Deer) and buy a few groceries and sometimes we'd even have a few cents left in our purse when we got home.

We were blessed with four children in our marriage — three girls and one boy. Margaret, our oldest, is a school teacher with a B. Ed. Degree is married to Jim Rendall of 100 Mile House, B.C. Jim has trained horses through the years, specializing in Quarter Horses. He and Margaret have won many trophies through the years. Harriet has her B. Sc. in nursing and is married to Nico van der Giessen, a civil engineer from Edmonton, who is presently head planner for Environmental Basin in Grande Prairie. They have three children: Jaret, Nico and Michael. Klara, a Laboratory Technologist, is married to Bert Bystrom who farms in the Centerville District. They have three children: Todd, Sandram and Pauli. Our son, David, is an electrician and an Alberta Guide and Outfitter.

Axel is an avid hunter who has hardly ever missed a hunting trip to the West Country in the fall. With father and son hunting every year, we've always had an abundant supply of wild meat. I went hunting with Axel the first year we were married. I hadn't ridden a horse for two years and the first day after riding all day I was so stiff I couldn't get off the horse without assistance and in the morning I needed help getting on again but I soon limbered up though and thoroughly enjoyed myself in spite of the severe cold. Following Axel over windfalls and deadfalls was really something and I soon played out. After being out on the ridges at 7 o'clock in the morning trying to spot game, I soon played out and by the time 11 o'clock rolled around I was thoroughly exhausted and finished and refused to go any further until I had eaten something. A frozen jam sandwich at this time tasted very delicious.

Axel is very interested in sports and horses. Through the years, when the children were growing up, the Benalto Fair and Stampede was a big highlight when he and the children showed horses.

At the age of 83, Axel still does a little farming and sings in the Presbyterian Choir in Sylvan Lake.

I've always been interested in Sunday School work and the church and taught Sunday School for a number of years in Burnt Lake until it terminated. I'm an active member of the Burnt Lake W. I. and was President at one time. I enjoy music, art and handicrafts and have often exhibited at fairs. In the



Dora and Axel Johansen's wedding, July 18, 1934.

early years of our marriage, I was quite active in the Social Credit movement. I remember going out to their meetings and their social gatherings which were most enjoyable.

We have been very fortunate through the years as far as tragedies go. We have had a few narrow escapes. When Harriet was only one and a half years old she got half a peanut lodged in her left lung which could have been very serious if the doctor hadn't been able to remove it. Another time, she was involved in a runaway on the rake on Burnt Lake and was thrown from the rake. Somehow, she pulled through this harrowing experience. Apart from other little mishaps life as been good to us and now we have time to enjoy our children and grandchildren and go on trips occasionally.

Mrs. Mabel Nash

I taught Poplar Ridge School from 1941-1944. As I lived in the adjoining district, I travelled back and forth each day. The one room school was situated about half a mile south of the Sylvan Lake Highway. The roads were always good and presented no problems.

Many new people were coming into the district so the school was overcrowded. I had between thirty-five and forty-five pupils in attendance. The inspector, Mr. Thurber, would not permit High School to be taught, and all beginners had to take correspondence courses. There was no cloakroom so the hooks at the back of the school were overflowing and the floor was covered with footwear. The seats were so close that a person had to sidle down between the rows.

As a new school was in the offing, little work was done on the old structure. Two girls, Mary and Annie MacDonnell, did the janitor work for a small fee. They also brought in the water and filled the reservoirs on the Waterbury Heater. This was supposed to provide us with humidity. They were always very faithful to their duties. In cold winter weather, the pupils played games on the blackboards and if it was moderate they played outdoor. They never seemed to mind severe weather but I sometimes felt it was the survival of the fittest.

The school concerts were big events and we had to travel to the Community Hall for practice and the big night. We were fortunate in having Marg Harvey, now Mrs. Andy Whyte, as our pianist. She was very faithful and her work was much appreciated. All Christmas concerts have their funny moments but we had one that I will always remember. After weeks of drilling, one little boy remarked in a loud voice, "You hold the chimney and I'll slide down the reindeer." In the laughter that followed, the audience never knew if he succeeded or failed. The parents

were always very co-operative and were very kind to the teacher so preparing for the concert was a pleasure.

During this period, the Division decided to build a new two-room school. Mr. Gordon Matthias was principal and I was the junior teacher and we both had heavy rooms. Our first project was to prepare an Honor Roll so we were busy securing the names of men who were in the war services. I am glad to say this scroll is preserved and is in the Community Hall.

The new school opening was a big event. The Division Board was present and our pupils presented a program. Everyone was pleased to see a new era but we all realized that there would be many adaptations ahead.

Some pupils I remember are: Mary, Byron and Eva Mae Soley — Kay, Gary, Robin, and Mary Archibald — Philip, Marie, and Frank Roth — Bill, Mary, and Bob Stewart — Solomon, Jenny, Willa, Kathleen, Harry, and Herman Solomon — Thelma and Mae Prentiss — Evelyn McGovern — Margaret, Joan and Ross Harvey — Winston Peterson — Odette, Arnold, and Maurice De Pauw — Annie and Mary MacDonnell — Roberta, Harold and Francis Pearson — Evelyn and George Wright — Johnnie and Mary Malinic — Johnnie, Rosemary, and Sylvia Buga — Kenny, Annie, and Betty Demas — Louis Chizmazia — Kathy, Joanne, Delina and John McEachen.

The Poplar Ridge Girls 4H Club

The Poplar Ridge Girls 4H Club was first organized on March 6, 1955, as a garden club sponsored in the district by the Poplar Ridge Women's Institute. Club leaders were Mrs. James Sparks and Mrs. Wm. Maga. Miss Marion Dixon was the District Home Economist, District Agriculturist was Mr. Price, while Wheat Pool Field Man was Mr. J. R. Rhyason.

Original members were: Cathryn Sparks, President; Jean Thompson, Vice President; Barbara Bertram, Secretary Treasurer; Teresa Sparks, News Reporter. Other members were Mary and Betty Johansen, Vera and Gail Robinson, Louise Maga, Catherine Salomons, Martha Maga.

Seeds were supplied and the gardens were planted, weeded, pruned, and harvested, canned, frozen, as per admonitions and instructions by leaders and home economists. A garden Tour took all participants on a jaunt to view and judge each others gardens. Achievement Day was the highlight with a school, fair-like air when results were judged. The first year winner was Cathryn Sparks, who would represent the club next year at Olds Agricultural College at Club Week.

The girls reorganized as a Clothing Club for the winter months. This brought in more members and with the reorganizing of the garden club for three consecutive years, clothing club for two years and a Food Club, almost all girls eligible in the district joined the club at one time or another. Many ambitious programs being attempted with much activity in the community and at the school and great co-operation of parents. The first winners were promoted to Junior leader and this was very helpful.

Miss Arlene Nelson was our D.H.E. after the first session, Mrs. Ailie Thompson was assistant leader of the clothing club and went on to be leader of the food club when Mrs. Sparks moved away. Members at different times were Wealtha Hannecart, Gwen King, Maxine Roth, Blanche Dallaire, Irma Ahrens, Marjorie Nichols, Inger Nielson. Janet Gaukler, Barbara Hawkings, Charlotte Davidson, Beth Thompson, Judy Pearce, Linda Maga, Corry Hansam, Ruth Johansen.

The girls took part in 4H Rallies in the area and entered a Themotis Display in the fair entitled "Farmstead Planning" which took first prize. The Women's Institute hosted the girls at meetings, a courtesy the girls returned. The W. I. supplied 4H pins for each member. As well, a turkey supper was served to the mothers. Various films were shown at social gatherings, both garden and otherwise.

The first year winners were Cathryn Sparks and Catherine Salomons. Second year winners were Barbara Bertram and Teresa Sparks. Third year winners were Jean Thompson and Louise Maga. Barbara Bertram also was chosen to attend Farm Camp Week at the Edmonton Exhibition.

As the older members left home for University or work, the club dwindled out, but many girls got a good grounding in social and organized community work as a result of the Poplar Ridge's 4H Club activities.

by Clara Sparks



4-H Sewing Club, 1945-46. Front row, L. to R.: Agnes Anderson (teacher), District Home Economist, Audrey Schaefer. Middle row: Mary Stewart, Jenny Solomons, Francis Pearson. Top row: Evelyn McGovern, Jean Scott, Wilmenia Solomons, Joan Harvey, Mary Soley.



Going to Olds with the 4-H Club, 1958. Jean Thompson, Louise Maga.



Achievement Day, 1956. Back row, L. to R.: Mr. Rhyson from Wheat Pool, Jean Thompson, Betty Johansen, Irma Ahrens, Barbara Bertram, Teresa Sparks, Blanche Delaire, Germaine Maga, Clara Sparks, Aileen Nelson (Home Economist). Second row: Louise Maga, Martha Maga, Mary Johansen. Front row: Catherine Solomons, Cathy Sparks.



Home and Field Club planting Trees, 1968. L. to R.: Rhonda and Glenda Lewis, Little Louis and Big Louis Maga.



4-H Centennial Display, 1967. Mary Corrigan, Louis Maga.



4-H Fair Display. Glenda Lewis.

Poplar Ridge Hall

The first meeting held for the purpose of forming a board to promote and build a community hall was held February 19, 1924.

It was moved by Mr. T. McGovern and seconded by W. Woof that Ray Depauw be elected as president, carried.

Mr. Brown moved that A. McBlane, seconded by Gerald L. Gilbert, be appointed as Secretary Treasurer. Carried.

It was agreed that a 26' x 50' building be erected with eight full windows and two half windows to be installed.

Mr. Gennow volunteered as foreman of the hall.

Two days later another meeting was held. The board decided to name the hall, "Poplar Ridge Community Hall".

Three trustees were added to the board. Mr. T. McGovern moved and seconded by E. Demas, that Ray Depauw act as trustee.

Moved by H. L. Austin, seconded by W. Woof, that T. McGovern be the second trustee.

Moved by R. Depauw, seconded by G. Gilbert, that W. Brown be the third for a one year term.

Ten dollar shares were sold to raise funds for the building. Many Red Deer businesses donated material and bought shares.

The first box social and dance was held on April 3, 1924. The roof was not completed but the weather turned warmer and everyone turned out to shingle the roof.

Proceeds of the event was \$83.70.

A new Willis piano was bought June of 1924 for the sum of \$540.00.

First entertainment committee appointed were Mr. Stevenard, W. Austin, and W. Brown.

L. Bjornson and Mable Soderman furnished some of the first music. Later, in 1931, Roth Bros. of Red Deer were approached and were hired on a per centage basis, 80% to them and 20% for the rent of the hall. There were many other orchestras who furnished music.

A constitution was drawn up February, 1925.

The one acre of land which the hall stood on and part of S.E. ¼ of 4-39-28 W4 was donated by Emery Demas for a sum of one dollar and used for community purposes only and not for religious or political purposes.

In about 1936, Mr. Marvin Wiley bought the Demas farm and he saw to it that the Hall Board obtained a Title to this one acre plot, as under the present situation it could not be sold.

Mr. H. Soderburg bought the property in 1961 and built himself a lovely modern home which he salvaged from the old hall. He levelled the hall by the use of dynamite.

The hall board sold it for \$750.00. Proceeds were donated to the Poplar Ridge Community Centre.

Mr. Soderberg and daughter, Viola, and grandson, Steven, are still living there.

Steven was the "New Years' Baby" in the Red Deer Hospital.

Mr. Soderberg is an ardent gardener. His beautiful grounds can be seen as you travel past along No. 11 Highway to Sylvan Lake. He is employed at Mitchener Centre.

Poplar Ridge Community Centre

The Poplar Ridge Community Centre originated after the closing of the Poplar Ridge School, at which time the school and property became available by tender to the people of the school district. Prior, to 1957 the Poplar Ridge Hall on No. 11 highway hosted many social functions. A number of community organizations had been active in Poplar Ridge for many years and gave their full support to this new organization. A general meeting was held in May, 1959 to discuss the formation of this Club and to determine the feasibility of purchasing the school grounds for the Community. Ray Bertram volunteered as temporary president and Mary Johansen as secretary, until a permanent board could be elected. A committee was delegated to negotiate with the Red Deer School Division to purchase the school building and property. Suggestions were discussed on how to raise money to pay for the property and a general meeting was scheduled to elect a board and directors.

On July 22, 1959 a general meeting of the community was held and officers were elected to a permanent board of the Poplar Ridge Community Centre. Ray Bertram was elected as president, Bill Stewart Sr. as vice-president, Jim Stewart as Secretary and John Malinic as treasurer. Mrs. Lucille Wiley, Fred Straub, Bill McBlane, Knud Johansen and Barbara Bertram became the first board directors. The name "THE POPLAR RIDGE COMMUNITY CENTRE" was selected and its club motto chosen; "FOR COMMUNITY BETTERMENT". It was moved that the executive draw up a constitution and send out letters to community families asking for donations. By August enough donations were gratefully accepted to meet the deadline of the first of three annual payments of \$250.00 to the Red Deer School Division to purchase the first half of the Community Centre property. The local W.I. ladies and the Sports Club sponsored social evenings, raffles, and many other projects to help raise funds, to purchase this as well as the other half of the grounds. Everyone chipped in and a tremendous community spirit prevailed. Community residents loaned money, interest free, and by November of the same year the adjoining property, better known as the teacherage and ball diamond, was purchased for \$600.00. The proceeds of many projects were contributed. Some of these were pancake suppers, box socials and bake sales in addition to raffles of turkeys, quilts and miscellaneous household items. The teacherage was rented out for \$25.00 a month, the first of many to live there was the Walker family. The community centre was made available to families of the community and rented occasionally to groups from outside of the district.

The Poplar Ridge Community Centre was granted the "Certificate of Incorporation" as a society in June of 1961. In addition to paying on a mortgage, the community centre began to improve the facility to make it better serve the needs of its members. Funds were kept available to give small gifts to people who donated labor, to provide a farewell party and gift when families moved away, to hold wedding showers, flowers for the sick and funeral tributes to the bereaved family.

A porch was built onto the south end of the centre and cement stairs were erected on the west side. A stage was built to accomodate such functions as dances, talent nights, Christmas concerts. The district of Norma donated cups, curtains, benches and a much-needed coffee maker. The Poplar Ridge Hall was sold and the proceeds used to make final loan payments to community individuals and to clear the mortgage at the School Division.

Community clubs continued to be very active and really appreciated having a place to meet and socialize with friends and neighbours. Local 4-H clubs used the Centre for many projects as did the W.I., Sports Club and later, the Junior Forest Wardens.

In 1964 our traditional "Kentucky Chicken" supper, preceding the annual meeting, began and has been a pleasant annual event ever since. A homecoming was planned for Canada's Centennial and a number of other projects were carried out by the community. Trees were planted that year and antique and historical displays were set up for viewing in the community centre. A committee was formed to try and locate the school bell which hung in the bell tower of the original schoolhouse. Unfortunately, it was never located. By 1971, the community club, much to satisfaction of the menfolk, was able to purchase a propane furnace to replace the old gravity coal and wood furnace. A small range was installed in the basement so the women were able to do some cooking and catering in the centre. The community spirit at Poplar Ridge thrived and by 1974 its membership and activities outgrew its facility. The centre was forced to make some very large decisions. The basement cement walls were badly deteriorated so a new basement would have to be built. Running water, a kitchen area and bathrooms would have to be included to upgrade the centre. At the 1975 annual meeting, an unanimous decision was made to build a new community centre rather than try to repair and modernize the old. Reluctantly, the teacherage property was sold and the proceeds put toward the building of the new hall. An entertainment committee was formed and many fund-raising projects were held to help add to the building fund. Once again the community centre canvassed the district and raised nearly

\$4000.00. Construction began and by late fall all exterior work was completed by volunteer community members. The Christmas concert was held in the new centre. Community loans were secured and work continued to complete the interior of the building. Bill Maga volunteered his skills as a cabinet maker and completed all of the kitchen cupboards and island. Crews worked very hard over the winter and by spring, the centre was completed. Members of long-standing appreciated the new well and indoor bathrooms immensely. Some might admit, though, that they perhaps missed a little the annual discussion on how to improve or repair what was called "the boys' biff" in the old school.

The entertainment committee catered to many social functions and banquets so the community loans were soon paid off. Community dances proved very popular and capacity crowds attended. Thanks to an expanded program and rapid community population growth the dance floor was soon found to be too small and once again plans began to extend the community centre. A major recreation and culture grant was received from the provincial government in 1978. Some of the work on the new addition was contracted but once again community members volunteered many hours to complete the project. Mrs. Florence Aubuchon painted wall murals on the extension wall depicting scenes from this and surrounding area. A bar and concession area was built in one corner, with a cedar roof and stone work front which also enhances the decor of the community centre. The grounds have been improved and lawn seeded

west of the community complex where the original centre once stood.

In the summer of 1980 a huge homecoming celebration was held in honor of Alberta's 75th anniversary. Families came from miles away and were reunited with old friends, neighbours and school teachers. Students, senior citizens and former teachers were honoured guests. The affiliation of some guests at this event dated back to the early 1900's. A pit barbecued beef supper was served to 350 guests. Everyone, young and old, enjoyed this festivity.

The Poplar Ridge Community Centre had enjoyed working hard over the years since it originated and is proud of the community spirit that continues to flourish. Many people have served on the Centre Board, committees and sub-committees over the years and continue to strive towards the fulfillment of its original motto: "For Community Betterment". The following have represented this community in the offices of president, secretary and treasurer in the order of their election to their position:

Presidents — Ray Bertram Bill Stewart Sr., Bob Stewart, John Malinic, Joe Lowis, Louis Maga, Jim Stewart, Harley Stam, Bob Crumback, Doug Corrigan, Ruth Stewart, Al Stephenson, Lance Ninkovich and Bill McEwan.

Secretary — Jim Stewart, Lyla Bahler, Flora Bahler, Dorothy Johansen, Ruth Stewart, Freda Bertram, Phyllis Crumback and Nita Maga.

Treasurers — John Malinic, Willis Wentworth, Bill Maga, Germaine Maga, Helen Moore, Mrs. Etha Metz, and Ruth Stewart.



Poplar Ridge Community Centre used until 1975.



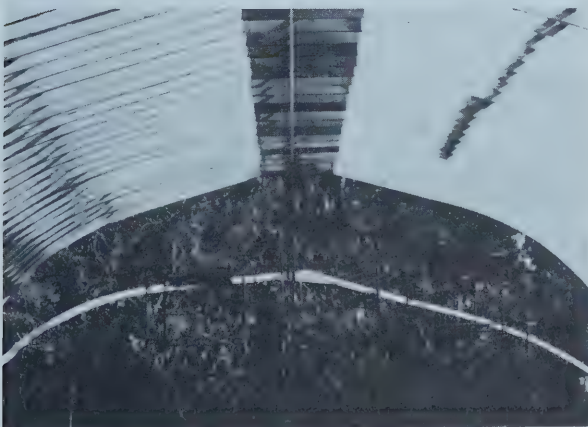
Christmas Concert, 1974. Jackie Harvey and friend doing acrobatics.



Santa entertains the children at Christmas concert, 1974. Where was Johnny Malinic?



Poplar Ridge Sports Club Float entered in a number of parades in Central Alberta, 1959. Frame built around Cecil Kind's car. Carol Bertram ran for Stampede Queen that year. Pictured are Carol Bertram, John Malinic, Barbara Bertram, Ben Demas.



Building of new Community Centre in fall of 1976.



Poplar Ridge Beatles, early 60's. Allan Moore, John Johansen, Dorian Bertram, Cliff Wentworth.



Lance Ninkovich working at east end of Community Centre.



Bob Stewart and Dick Krogman sheeting front of hall.



Square Dance Jamboree at Poplar Ridge, 1981.



Anniversary Party for Marvin and Lucille Wiley. L. to R.: Mr. and Mrs. Mike Maga, Mr. and Mrs. John Warren, Mr. and Mrs. Evan Robinson, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Harvey, Germaine Maga, Hal Thompson, Bill Maga, Walter Hart, Bill Smith.



Jack Moore reading "The Night Before Christmas" at 1980 concert.



New Community Centre ready for a banquet.



Kim McEwan, Highland Dancing, 1978. Kim has danced with the Red Deer Highland Dance Association for a number of years. She has obtained numerous medals for her efforts and hopes to visit Scotland in the future. Kim has performed at the Community Centre several times to the delight of everyone present.



Nita Maga the clown at 1980 Halloween Party. Larry Lesack in the back.



Halloween Masquerade Dance, 1977. Back row, L. to R.: Al Stephenson, Janet Clark, Lance Nincovich, Gail McEwen, Nita Maga, Louis Maga, Bob Stewart, Dick Krogman, Bill McEwen. Front row: Ruth Stewart, Alice Stephenson, Bev Nincovich, Mary Krogman, Fred Clark.



Miss Poplar Ridge, 1980. Winner of costume contest at Halloween masquerade dance — Wally Wright.

History of Poplar Ridge W.I.

The first meeting was held on October 23, 1935, at the home of Mrs. Kirkland. Mrs. J. W. Lawrence, Constituency Convener for Red Deer Center took the chair and directed the election of officers as follows:

President — Miss Soderman
 First Vice-President — Mrs. Thompson
 Second Vice-President — Mrs. Duncan
 Secretary-Treasurer — Mrs. Wiley
 Second Sec.-Treas. — Mrs. Neilson

Charter Members:

Mrs. Hunt
 Mrs. McBlane

Mrs. Thompson
Miss H. Soderman
Miss E. Kirkland
Mrs. Kirkland
Mrs. F. Neilson, Sr.
Mrs. Miller
Mrs. Sauamt
Mrs. Wiley
Mrs. S. Soderman
Mrs. Christian
Miss H. Neilson

Mrs. Doig, Secretary-Treasurer of the extinct U.F.W.A., turned over the sum of \$17.59 in cash and the Piano in Poplar Ridge Hall to the Poplar Ridge W.I.

By the end of the year there were 20 members and by December, 1936, 28 members and a bank balance of \$67.03. Money was raised from a booth at the Fair, a small raffle at each meeting, Card Parties and Sale of Aprons in the fall.

In 1937, a garden competition was sponsored. A Coronation tree was planted. A quilt was made and raffled at 10¢ a ticket. There were 21 members.

In 1938, a dinner for all paid members and their husbands was held at the Sylvan Lake Hotel. Still 21 members.

The October meeting of 1939 held over because of bad roads. Eleven members now.

The year 1940 saw the start of Red Cross work. A travelling apron netted \$6.16 and the money went towards the War Emergency's fund. Still 11 members.

Grandmothers were remembered at the May meeting in 1941. Wool was sent for blankets and parcels were sent to boys from the district. Eleven faithful members.

The year 1942 saw the first mention of a farm sale at which \$32.37 was taken in. At the June meeting, Mrs. Wiley was Secretary as the Harvey family had Scarlet Fever. Fifteen members now.

Everyone worked hard for the Red Cross in 1943. Mrs. Thompson won the Prize for the Poplar Ridge W.I. at the Conference with Baking Powder Biscuits. 14 members.

In 1944, the district was canvassed for the Red Cross and \$114.00 was collected. A stove and heater was bought for the hall. Membership had risen to 17.

1945 — The Hall kitchen was progressing. Baskets of fruit were given to five old people at Christmas. Still 17 members.

In 1946, a donation was given towards the West Window Fund of the Anglican Church. Plants and a corsage were given the elderly ladies for Mother's Day. Membership was the same.

A paralytic patient of the district was helped in 1947. There are now 26 members.

Since 1948, shutins and old folks have been remembered at Christmas. Card parties have been held in the school most winters.

In the fall of 1949 a Bazaar and Chicken supper was held in the Hall.

A Bazaar and Chicken supper was held in the fall of 1950.

Food parcels were sent overseas.

A quilt was made and raffled in 1952 and realized \$16.80. A travelling basket and Parcel Post were also started that year.

In 1953, Poplar Ridge W.I. had the concession at Sim's Auction Mart for the month of April.

Most summers one or two Bazaar and Bake Sales were held at Sylvan Lake. In 1952 each member gave \$2.00 or more as a W.I. project for the month of June.

A travelling basket and a travelling apron both made their rounds in 1954.

A sum of money was set aside for the Red Deer Twilight Home.

For a number of years, each member has had a Silent Friend whose identity is revealed at the Christmas meeting.

A travelling Apron made rounds again in 1955. There were 12 members. The W.I. sponsored the local girls 4-H Club and bought each girl a 4-H Club pin. A tea was held at Mrs. Harvey's home when the W.I. celebrated its 20th Anniversary. All Charter Members were invited and a corsage was presented to each lady — six charter members in all.

In 1956 twelve Christmas gifts were sent to senior citizens of the district. Social evenings were held at the school throughout the winter. The ladies attended a 4-H Meeting and the 4-H Girls were present at a W.I. meeting. Barbara Bertram received a W.I. pin for being an honor student in Grade Nine. Poplar Ridge won first prize in the Handicraft competition. Mrs. Moore and Mrs. Davidson were on holidays in England. A wheel chair was hired for Mrs. McBlane, who has had a stroke. Mrs. Wiley has had nine years perfect attendance at the W.I. meetings. There are fifteen members.

In 1957, we studied the United Nations. A Dresden plate quilt was made and entered in the fair and Salada tea contest where it won a prize in each class. We started to gather the history of Poplar Ridge. A conducted tour was made to the Brewery and Alpha Milk plant. Mrs. Moore and Mrs. Davidson spoke on C.K.R.D. of their trip to England and Europe. Teresa Sparks received a W.I. spoon as an honor student in Grade 9. The children collected pennies for UNICEF at Halloween. Brackneys and Mitchells were given

gifts when leaving the district. Members were fourteen.

In 1958, our study was of Canada. An Alberta scrapbook was started. We contributed to the tea held at the Twilight Lodge. Cups and saucers filled with candy were given to the ladies at the Lodge. Louise Maga and Jean Thompson were winners of the 4-H trip to Olds and they later spoke over C.K.R.D. of their experiences with Mrs. Moore as M.C. A party was given to Tinnars as they left to live in Switzerland. Pennies were collected for UNICEF and the elderly were remembered at Christmas time. Thirteen members.

In 1959, we studied Australia. Card parties were held during the winter months. Bus tickets and stationery were sent to the ladies and gentlemen at the Twilight Lodge. A Birthday Party was held for Mr. Woof. A going away party was held for Mr. and Mrs. Dick Woof who were leaving to make their home at Ohaton. Poplar Ridge received second prize in the handicraft competition. One hundred dollars was donated to the Community Centre, formerly the Poplar Ridge school; which the Community were buying. A "scrapbook" has been made by each member and sent to the Deerholme Institute. Charlotte Davidson and Inga Neilson received W.I. spoons for being honor students in Grade Nine. David Sparks was also an honor student and received a pen and pencil set. Soap made by Mrs. Thompson and 115 pounds of good used clothing were sent to the Indians in the West Country. A farewell party was held for Mr. and Mrs. A. Kimbal and a farewell gift was given to Mr. and Mrs. Sam Davidson who have gone to live in Sylvan Lake. There are 12 members.

1960 — The study this year is South America. A Valentine Supper was held in February for all W.I. members and their families. A Birthday Party was held for Mr. Woof. Corsages were given to Grandmothers on Mother's Day. A farewell party was held for Mr. and Mrs. Turner who were moving to B.C. Two safety signs were erected at a dangerous corner at the suggestion of the W.I. Barbara Bertram held handicraft lessons for the children at the Centre. Mrs. Doig was honored at a farewell party. She left the district to live in Sylvan Lake after living here for 60 years. A house-warming party was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Lowis. There are only ten members now.

1961 — We studied Alberta. We had our annual turkey supper for members and their families at Valentines. The W.I. paid one third on a coffee urn for the Centre. The Centre was cleaned and painted with help from members of the W.I. and others. We also bought curtains for the centre. Poplar Ridge had second prize at the Handicraft Competition again this

year. A turkey was raffled to buy treats for the Children's Christmas concert. We are back to twelve members.

In 1962 we studied the North Country and also decided to extend our W.I. history to a district history. We made layettes for the Unitarian Service.

1963 — Wales was the country we studied. Some of the members corresponded with Welsh W.I. members. We made a quilt.

1964 — We studied Canada. Bought a wheel chair for the Auxiliary Hospital — also, cups and saucers. There were 15 members.

1965 — Six-hundred-ninety-three pounds of good used clothing were collected for the Indians; Unitarian Service and the Clothing bank.

1966 — We only had ten members. We studied the United States. Started to make our Centennial Quilt. Our last meeting was held in October at which time we disbanded after 31 years.

1961 — A farewell party was held for the Ray Bertram family on November 16 and they were presented with a tray from the W.I. and a purse of money from the community.

A few highlights of Poplar Ridge W.I. — 1958-68.

1958

Sept. 22 — Received \$118.23 from Tinner's sale.

1960

Jan. 30 — Flowers were sent to Mrs. Robinson's funeral. \$3.00. Evan Robinson's mother.

Feb. 6 — Flowers were sent to Mike Demas' funeral.

May 11 — A gift was bought for Abassarts.

Auction Sale at Centre brought \$162.50. Mr. Warren donated wheat and \$37.00 was received for it.

Nov. 9 — Poplar Ridge W.I. gave \$50.00 to the Community Centre.

1961

Nov. 8 — One third was paid on the coffee urn at the Centre, \$14.68.

Nov. — Auction Sale at Centre brought \$167.26.

1962

Christmas Turkey Raffle brought \$50.90.

Dec. 19 — W.I. Christmas treats at Centre cost \$33.03 — 80 bags.

1963

Made W.I. Quilt at a cost of \$9.64.

Community Bingo brought \$129.88.

Turkey Raffle \$24.75. Christmas treats \$26.88. 75 bags.

Blanket Raffle and Box Social brought \$93.45.

\$88 donated to needy family in district.

1964

Turkey Raffle \$34.05. Quilt Raffle \$43.55.

Two third prizes won at Red Deer Fair.

New Santa Suits purchased from Eaton's, \$16.99.

Ice Cream, etc., for Poplar Ridge Community Picnic
— \$4.24.

Turkey Raffle \$35.35.

1965

Nov. — Bingo at Centre \$83.50. Turkey Raffle,
\$49.80.

1966

Nov. — Bingo at Centre, \$40.75.

Turkey Raffle, \$44.25.

1967

April — Mr. Woof's sale, \$32.38, plus donations of
\$30.00.

Dec. — Turkey Raffle, \$65.35.

1968

Dec. — Turkey Raffle, \$48.50.



W.I. Ladies, 1945. L. to R.: Mrs. Woof, Mrs. Stewart, Mrs. Harvey, Mrs. Woof, Grandma Edmundson, Mrs. Thompson, Mrs. Warren, Mrs. Soley (?), Mrs. Wiley, Mrs. Doig, ?, Mrs. Hunt, Pauline Woof (sitting).



Poplar Ridge W.I. Meeting, early 40's. Back row: Mrs. Berteau, ?, Mrs. Nan de Zeeuw, Bertha Doig, Aillie Thompson, Kermet Archibald, Hazel Roth (Mrs. George), Mrs. Neilson. Middle row: ?, Mrs. Jack Thompson (mother), ?, Mrs. Finch, Mrs. Lucille Wiley. Bottom row: Mrs. Daisy Harvey, Alice Swanson, Kay Mosley, Effie Scragg.



Huss' Farm Sale, 1948. Back row, L. to R.: Germaine Maga, Mrs. Warren, Agnes Neilson, Dode Lowis, Mary Stewart, Alice Brackney, Mrs. Havey, Front row: Aillie Thompson, Mrs. Wiley, Yvonne Duval.



Charter Members of Poplar Ridge W.I. at Harveys, May, 1956. The originals are wearing corsages. Back row, L. to R.: Mrs. Warren, Mrs. Brackney, Mrs. Stewart, Mrs. Sparks, Aillie Thompson, Mrs. Harvey, Freda Bertram, Germaine Maga. Centre Row, L. to R.: Mrs. Miller, Mrs. Wiley, Hilda Soderman, Maizie Blakley, Mrs. Thompson, Helen Farewell. Front row, L. to R.: Molly Davidson, Helen Moore, Dode Lowis, Pauline Woof.

Poplar Ridge Honors Retiring Mail Carriers

Copied from original newspaper clipping.

December 29, 1965

Poplar Ridge Community Centre played host, on December 29, 1965, to a farewell party for Mr. and Mrs. William Silverberg.

Mr. Silverberg was the rural mail carrier for over 37 years on Rural Route Number One and also for quite a number of years on Route Three. His wife assisted him in his duties.

Seldom was a mail day missed during this time, even through the worst weather of much snow and blizzard.

Friends came from areas as far away as Willowdale and Clearview, Burnt Lake, Shady Nook, Pine Hill and Poplar Ridge to help celebrate the occasion with the Silverbergs.

Ray Bertram, Master of ceremonies for the evening, introduced the following entertainers: Mr. and Mrs. Sawyer, Mr. Philips, Mr. Evans, and James Stewart, who supplied lively music from a few years back. Ken, Jean and Billy Butler provided several selections on their accordians.

Mrs. Swain Swainson gave a humorous reading.

George Horn, Red Deer Postmaster, also paid tribute to Mr. and Mrs. Silverberg and introduced the new mail carrier, Wesley Coleman, and his wife. They have already assumed their new duties.

Mrs. Silverberg was presented with a bouquet of red roses by Mrs. Swainson on behalf of their many friends.

L. Erickson then presented Mr. and Mrs. Silverberg with a Christmas "money tree" from their friends on Routes 1 and 3, many of whom could not be present due to the weather.

However, warmest wishes go with the Silverbergs to their new home in British Columbia.

Lunch was served by the ladies and the singing of "For They Are Jolly Good Fellows" brought the evening to a close.

Hunts Hill

by D. Lowis

Most any old-timer of Poplar Ridge has a story to tell of travelling on the Old Hunt Hill. Some good, some frightening and others just inconvenient. When we first came to Poplar Ridge, the road wound around the hill instead of over the top as it does now. We had a few anxious moments while going around the hill at different times. One fall, Joe was helping thresh at Brackneys and they were moving equipment back to our place. One of our horses would run at the first chance. This afternoon, Joe was coming down the hill past the barn with the team on a hayrack and the grain wagon tied on behind. Baldy decided it was too much to hold back so the team was in full gallop by the time they were going by Brackneys house. Joe knew it was nearly time for the children to be returning from school and he wondered if he should head the horses into the trees at the bottom of the hill. One quick glance and no children were in sight so he decided to keep them on the road and around the corner and up the hill. Some how he turned that corner with both wagons on 2 wheels and brought the horses to a stop half way up the hill.

Alice's brother, Redvers, was standing near the barn expecting to see a nasty accident before the horses were stopped. He was a good story teller and

would often say he'd been to many Calgary Stampedes and seen many Chuck Wagon races, but he'd never seen a more thrilling run than the one he saw that day in Poplar Ridge.

Mistaken Identity

by D. Lowis

Joe and Sam Davidson and Fred Straub went over to Percivals one stormy winter's day; on business. The roads were heavy and they were walking up the lane when they heard someone shouting, "Sam, get home you —! —!" Sam headed back to the truck saying he never went any place where he wasn't wanted. Joe and Fred continued on up to the house. They all had a good laugh when they later learned that the angry voice was that of Mr. Reso and "Sam" was the Reso's family dog.

Family History

Glen and Leona Abrey

Glen, who was born in Dauphin, Manitoba, married the former Leona Stuart of Camrose. They were married in Bashaw in 1964.

Glen received his R.C.M.P. training in Regina and worked in different Alberta areas.

Leona, who was an R.N., also found work where ever her husband was located. Some of the places were Medicine Hat, High Level, Smokey Lake, and Red Deer.

Even though Glen was dedicated to his work, he also had a yearn to farm, and own a piece of land.

In 1971, he bought 100 acres (N of C.N.R. N.E. ¼ 4-39-28 W4) from Marvin Wiley. The first five years he rented the land. He had a garage built so that he could store his antique buggy, sleigh, etc. in it. Also built a fence to pasture their horses. They are both horse lovers and love to hook up a team to sleigh or buggy.

A small one room building was added to the property, suitable for them to spend their week ends and holidays. They drilled a well and put in the power.

In 1977, Glen was posted to Red Deer and promoted to Staff Sergeant. They soon purchased a trailer for their property and moved into it while the new house and barn, etc., were being built.

They have a family of two: Philip 12 years, Erin 10 years, both attending River Glen School by bus.

Usually Glen finds time to get out in the west country to hunt and sometimes the family goes out there to ride.

It has become a hobby farm with a few chickens, cows, etc.

They all participate with chores.

Alf and Lois Ahrens

Alf and Lois moved to Poplar Ridge in February of 1980. Alf has, however, lived in the Crossroads district or Red Deer most of his life. His parents, Hans and Irma, operated a dairy farm located along the old highway (C and E Trail) where Alf grew up.

Alf attended school at Crossroads, Central, Riverglen and Lindsay Thurber. After finishing high school, Alf worked in the oil patch for 8 years. During this time he worked at such places as Rainbow Lake, Fort Nelson, Fort Simpson, Norman Wells, Inuvik, Tuktoyaktuk, the Beaufort Sea and all across the Canadian prairies. Then Alf went truck driving, hauling grain in Alberta and Saskatchewan. At this time he and his brother Lou bought a farm at Haynes and also went into the custom cutting and baling business. In the winter of 1972 he went to work for Westward Parts driving a truck where he has been employed ever since. He is now manager of Westward Parts in Red Deer.



Alf and Lois Ahrens on their wedding day, October 13, 1979.

Lois grew up on her parents farm at Alhambra and attended school at Alhambra, Rocky and David Thompson. After finishing high school, she attended the University of Alberta to become a teacher, majoring in physical education. She taught 1 year at David Thompson, 1 at Rocky and 10 years of physical education at Lacombe before switching from high school to elementary. She also moved back to Alhambra and taught at Eckville, where she has been teaching for the last 3 years.

Alf and Lois discovered Poplar Ridge Estates accidentally in May of 1979 while just driving around one evening after attending a movie. We became engaged and purchased our lot from Ray Bertram in June and began building our home in September after clearing the land by hand with an axe, chain saw, front end loader, many bee stings and lots of wiener roasts. On October 13, 1979 we were married at Rocky and lived in Mustang Acres where Alf owned a mobile home until our home was finished in February of 1980.

We have a cat (Manxie) and 2 dogs (Trixie and Shadow) for pets and are thoroughly enjoying living at Poplar Ridge.

Peter Ammeter

Peter and Freda Ammeter moved to the Poplar Ridge district in February, 1932, with daughter, Anna Liese, and infant son, Roland. They stayed for a time with Freda's sister, Maria Tinner, until moving to a farm rented from Mr. Staples. The same year, a son, Norman, was born in the little log house on that farm the next spring (May, 1933) and in 1934 the family purchased a farm owned by Mr. Zarman, three miles south of Sylvan Lake.

Freda died in 1938 and in 1946 Peter sold that land and moved to the Jones place in the Poplar Ridge area once again, where he married Lisa Walter of Vermillion. The farm was sold in 1968 and Peter and Lisa moved to Creston, British Columbia, for their retirement where Lisa is still living.

A daughter, Ann Bergen, of Calgary has five children and one grandchild. Son, Roland, married Irene Reiswig in 1975 and lives in the Durham district and son, Norman, married Phyllis Brewer of Vancouver, B.C. in 1966. They have two children, a son Bryan and daughter, Susan. They live in the Norma district.

Peter Ammeter passed away in December, 1978.

The Andreeff Family

Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas Andreeff and son, Serge, came to the Poplar Ridge district in August, 1947. They stayed at the Feoderoff farm until October, 1947, when they moved to the MacEachen farm, across from the Midway Service Station on No. 11 Highway. About a year later, they moved to the Alf Jones farm where they lived until they moved to Sylvan Lake in 1953. The same year, Serge married Shirley Parker and they spent one year on Alf Jones' farm, before also moving to Sylvan Lake where they still live.

Nick and Anna Andreeff opened Nick's Campground in Sylvan in 1961 which they ran until 1972.

Nick and Anna retired in Alix. In January, 1980, Nick passed away.

Nicholas Andreeff was born in Aleshki, Russia, in 1902. When seventeen years old, he left Russia during the revolution and eventually settled in France where he met and married Anna Barbot in 1930. Anna was born in Argentre du Plessie, Ille Et Vilaine, France, in 1904. Nick and Anna had two sons; Jean, the eldest was killed in action as a French soldier in Indo China, later known as Vietnam. The second son, Serge, was sixteen years old when he came to Canada with his parents.



Back: Winston Peterson. Middle: Serge and Anna Andreeff, Mrs. Hannecart, Mr. Hannecart, Harry Warren, Wealtha Hannecart. Front: Nick Andreeff, 1947.

The first few years in Alberta were hard for the Andreeff family. The new language and customs, and the harsh climate were difficult to adjust to. Their most vivid recollection of the weather would be the snow storm of March 14, 1951. They had gone to a show in Red Deer and when they came out of the theatre they found the storm so bad they could only make it to the Duval place, which is near the Number 2 and 11 overpass. There were twenty-two people stranded at Duval's for three days until the snow plow came and they could get home. The thought of France's mild climate must have seemed very attractive at that time.

Cars and machinery were something else quite new to the Andreeff family, for not many in France had a motor vehicle at that time. The acquisition of a 1935 Chevrolet by the Andreeffs in 1948 was a big event. One memorable day, Serge and his mother set out for Red Deer in the car. On the crest of the hill which Percival's live on now, they encountered road construction. As they started down the hill, a large bulldozer began coming up the hill seemingly right in their path. Anna, unfamiliar with road construction and large machinery, was convinced the

bulldozer was going to run right over them. Her son, Serge, tried to convince her there was nothing to worry about but, having a mind of her own, she jumped out of the car, ran over to the fence, climbed over, and made her way to the bottom of the hill in the farmer's field, safely away from the menacing machinery. There were many times during those first few years Anna was to wish she had never left her home in France, and that was one of them.

However, Canada was good to the Andreeff family. They eventually found much prosperity and happiness in Alberta and often remember those "beginnings" in the Poplar Ridge district.

The David Morrison Archibald Family by J. Herbert McClure

David Morrison Archibald, who descended from United Empire Loyalists, was born near King City, Ontario, in 1859. His first wife died in 1891 and he was left with one son, Ernest. He then married Sarah Cain and they have four children: Ada, Gertrude, Roy, and Myrtle. They moved from a farm at King City to Glen Williams near Georgetown, Ontario, where David was in the pump business. Due to the



David Morrison Archibald and Sarah Archibald.

failure of the business, they headed for Western Canada.

The Archibalds arrived in Red Deer in the spring of 1899. Due to the bridge being impassable, the train stopped there and they got off and went to the immigration hall. It is difficult for us to understand the feelings of David and Sarah who, with Ernest 14 years, Ada 6 years, Gertie 5 years, Roy 3 years, and Myrtle 1 year, and with all their possessions and little money as they got off the train.

They filed on a homestead about a half mile north and three and a half miles west of Red Deer. The legal description was NE 22, Township 38, Range 28, west of the 4th meridian. Apparently David and his son, Ernest, spent most of the summer out there cutting logs and building a house. It seemed that the family moved out there and then moved back to town in the fall so that the children could go to school. When a school was built at Poplar Ridge, three miles northwest of the farm, they lived out there the year round. The Archibald family found making a living difficult and farm income was supplemented by David doing carpenter work especially during the winter. He worked at Fernie, B.C., and on the big Grand Trunk bridge at Duhamel, Alberta. This bridge claims that it is the longest wooden bridge in the world. He put up the buildings on the old Prevo farm, a mile east of Sylvan Lake. He and his sons hauled and sold firewood in Red Deer.

Some stories handed down the Archibald grandchildren were:

Ada and Gertie pulled spruce trees out of swamps on the way home from school and planted them in the driveway where they remain today. Ada and Gertie were lost looking for cows and they were able to find their way when they saw the sky where the line was cut north of the farm. The Archibalds and William Stewart family including Bertha (Doëg) worked and visited together frequently. Joe and Marie Gaetz had the only phone near there and were called upon to deliver messages in time of need. The Edgington's were frequent visitors. Mrs. Archibald enjoyed her cups of tea with the neighbor ladies. Fred Carter, from England, worked on farms in the area but made his home at the farm, from about 1912 to 1937. Harvey Cain, Mrs. Archibald's brother lived in the Red Deer area.

David and Sarah lived on the homestead until 1934 when it was taken over by Gertie (Archibald) and George Jarvis. They moved into Red Deer. About 1941, David went to Tofino, B.C., to live with his son, Ernest, who was nightman for the Coast Guard. In 1943, after suffering a slight stroke, he came back to Vancouver where he died a short time later. Sarah

Archibald, who was living in Calgary near her daughter Myrtle, suffered a stroke and died in 1944.

The descendants of David and Sarah Archibald now number about 120 and are scattered all over North America. Ernest married Bessie Montgomery in 1911 and their children were: Ethel, Edith, and George. Ada married George McClure in 1914 and their children were: Herbert, Orville, Edna, and Olive. Gertrude married George Jarvis in 1915 and they had two boys, Earl and Cecil. Roy married Kermit Robinette in 1923 and their children were: Harold, Kathleen, Gary, Joyce, James and Robin. Myrtle married Sandy Gehrke in 1916 and their children were: Melville, Eleanor, Irene, Howard, Kenneth, Leola, and Audrey.

The Archibald Family by Eleanor Campbell (Daughter of Myrtle)

David Morrison and Sarah Archibald with their five children (Ernest 14, Ada 6, Gertrude 5, Roy 3, Myrtle 1) arrived in the Red Deer area in the summer of 1899. A declining Pump Installation Business in Georgetown, Ontario, was the motivation for the Archibalds to come out west and take up a homestead. They came on what was known as the Immigrant Train, so called because it was purposely designed for bringing the families and belongings of men wishing to settle in the west. The trip took several days and they were all happy to reach their destination.

The homestead was located one mile north and three miles west of the town site and is now part of the farm owned by the Truant family. Sarah and the young children stayed at the Immigration House while Morrison and Ernie cleared a patch of land and built a log house and dug a well. The house was approximately 16 feet wide and 22 feet long and was two stories high. There were two bedrooms upstairs. The ground floor was all in one room with two stairways in the southeast corner, one to the upstairs and the other to a dug-out cellar. There was a small woodshed on the porch and thus it remained until it was torn down in the early thirties and a new house was built on the spot. This was done by a son-in-law, George Jarvis, after he bought the farm.

The Archibalds did not take up permanent residence on the homestead until after the first school was built in the district. I regret that I cannot give the exact date. During the school term, Sarah and the children stayed in town and Morrison carried on alone at the homestead. The improvements had to be kept up and other buildings put up to shelter the horses, cows, and chickens. Horses were essential to the homesteader and I doubt that their versatility has ever been tested to the extent it was during that era.

Cows and chickens, not only provided a source of income to the homesteader, they were large contributors to his livelihood.

Once the school was built and the family firmly established at the homestead, a whole new pattern of living came into effect. Sarah made butter and sold it to regular customers in town. She sold eggs the same way. In the spring, she supplied eggs to go under setting hens. A big garden was part of the program, too, and most of the summer evenings were spent making it one of the best in the country. Both Morrison and Sarah were avid gardeners. Sarah filled available jars with pickles, rhubarb, and any wild berries they could find. The root vegetables were stored in a cellar and the house was banked high with snow to keep the frost out. If it became extremely cold, the cellar door was left open and a lantern would be hung to help keep the vegetables from freezing.

There were few trips to the store for groceries. Flour, sugar, salt, baking powder, and all such commodities were bought in large quantities and often just once a year. Eggs were the main source of protein in the diet. Occasionally, a chicken, a rabbit, or some game bird served as a delectable change in the menu. Cattle were not plentiful enough to butcher and even if they had been, there were no facilities for keeping the meat fresh. As time progressed, a pig was fed and butchered during the winter when the meat could be kept frozen. They rendered the fat for lard and some of the meat was cured with salt. During the summer, when the milk soured quickly, a pan of such milk could be found on the back of the kitchen stove and you could be sure that there would be a dish of delicious cottage cheese for supper that night. Sarah also made her own vinegar and the family swear that there has never been any to equal it.



Back row, L. to R.: Ade, Roy, Ernie, Myrtle. Seated: Sarah, Gertie, David Morrison Archibald, August, 1922.



The old Archibald home.

The Archibald household was always a busy one. Each of the children had their duties to perform. The girls learned to cook and sew at an early age. Roy did his share outside. They were musical and learned to play instruments. Myrtle played for her first dance at the age of eight years. She started taking lessons on the piano at the age of five and was renowned throughout her entire life as a talented musician. Ada was church organist for years. Roy played the violin and with the girls played for many of the dances in the district. Sarah could take her turn at the keyboard too.

The Archibalds were known for their hospitality. Few Sundays passed that a horse and buggy or cutter, a team and wagon, or sleigh, or someone on horseback were not seen coming up the lane. Morrison had planted a row of spruce trees on either side of the road leading into the buildings from the main road. It was always referred to as the Lane. It is still standing today and when looking west from Red Deer, can be seen silhouetted against the sky. Thanks to the Truants and the Metz family for preserving and caring for this monument to Morrison and Sarah's efforts.

Dancing was the favorite form of entertainment. The school provided an introduction program for the children and through them the parents were encouraged to get together. A dance at the Archibald house was an event. Sarah was a good hostess but a strict one. She forbade anyone with liquor or under the influence of same to stay at one of her parties. The music was the best in the country. Ada and Gertie did most of the baking for these affairs and their lemon and chocolate tarts were to become a legend.

Box socials were popular too. Each lady made a lunch and packed it in a decorated box. At lunch time it was auctioned off to the highest bidder and the lady

ate with whoever bought her box. Most of the fun was in getting the box to the auction stand without a favored male knowing which one it was. It all made for a lot of fun and laughter and a few disappointments.

The Christmas Tree programs were always an exciting affair, especially for the children. It was their night to be seen and heard. The traditional visit of Santa Claus bringing a gift and a bag of candy was one that they all looked forward to with anticipation.

Neighbors played an important role in the life of the homesteader. They all had one common interest. That was making the necessary improvements and getting a clear title to the land. They all realized the time and hard work that was involved in doing this. Morrison broke 60 acres and left the rest as pasture. He supplemented the income by going to work as a carpenter. There was lots of such work to be had and it was not long before his services were in constant demand. He built a cabin and engaged an English immigrant to stay on the homestead and help Sarah and the children. Fred Carter was his name and he was to remain there for several years. Morrison's work kept him away for long periods at a time. He spent a winter in Calgary with a sash and door company and spent another winter in the Fernie area. He was helping build and repair the wooden trestles for the Railroad. He had previously worked on the bridge at Duhamel. There were several houses, barns, sheds, etc., in the district credited to his skillful hands. Some of the neighbors that I recall hearing the name of are: Holbrook, Dominique, Dallaire, Stewart, Doig, Hunt, Gaetz, Demas, Werner, Soderman, Austin, Prevo, Thompson, Woof, Soley, Raymer, Miller, Christie, Belich, Gilbert, McBlane, Reed, Edgington Bowen, Bone, Brownrigg, Atkins, Strong, Gennow, Kincaid, and Reveryand.

Ernest Archibald went to work for the C.P.R. in his late teens. He later married Bessie Bailer and they had three children. He later moved to Edmonton and lived there till he retired and went to Vancouver Island. He died there in 1962.

Ada Archibald married George McClure. They farmed in the Sylvan Lake area before moving to the Camrose area. Their four children were raised and educated there. When the farm was bought by their younger son, Orville, they moved to North Vancouver and George bought a tinsmith shop there. Ada died out there in 1959.

Gertie Archibald married George Jarvis. They farmed in the Sylvan Lake and Eckville areas before buying the Archibald homestead in the early thirties. George was killed in a car accident in 1939. Gertie and her two sons, Earl and Cecil, operated the farm

for several years before they sold to the Metz family. Gertie moved to Edmonton and remained there until her death in 1974. Earl married Dorothy Besse while he was on the homestead. After the farm was sold, he moved to California. They had two sons, both on the farm. Earl pre-deceased his mother in 1964. Cecil is married and lives at Sundre. He had five children.

Roy Archibald farmed the homestead for several years before and after he married and bought his own quarter section in the Poplar Ridge district. He married Kermit Robinette and they had six children: Harold, Kathleen, Gary, Joyce, James, and Robin.

Myrtle Archibald married Sandy Gehrke. They farmed in the Shady Nook area before moving into Red Deer in 1923. They had seven children: Melville, Eleanor, Irene, Howard, Kenneth, Leola, and Audrey. Melville spent several years with Sarah and Morrison at the homestead. He attended the Poplar Ridge School. Myrtle spent her entire life in the Red Deer area and died there in 1977.

The Harold David Archibald Family by Hal Archibald

My grandparents, David Morrison Archibald and Sarah Cain arrived from King's County, Ontario, (near Toronto) by rail to establish their homestead at NE¼ Sec 22 T 38 R 28, W of the 4th in the summer of 1898. No story is complete without the legendary story of the family history. I shall quote here the story of our history as supplied by my Grand Uncle Charles who was an older brother of my Grandfather David Morrison:

"The story of how my great-grandmother came to leave Scotland, and come to America, is as follows: My great-great-grandfather was a teacher of mathematics in Edinburgh University. His son, my great-grandfather, John Archibald came from Edinburgh, Scotland, when a boy of 13 in 1740. His father hired, or apprenticed him to a cheese maker. His master did not give him sufficient food to eat, while



Harold, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Archibald.

he was working with the cheese, once in a while he would take a lump of the curd and eat it. His employer told his father who gave him a severe thrashing for eating the cheese. After that happened, he made up his mind to leave his place so he ran away and got aboard a British Man-of-War, and came to New York and when in the harbor he gave them the slip and got away.

He first lived at Fish Kill, New York. What happened after that till the War of Independence broke out, is unknown to me. At that time it is said, he lived on and owned a large farm somewhere either where the city of Philadelphia now stands or near to that city. They called it the Forks of the Delaware River. When the war broke out, he decided to take neither part in the war. But while at home on his farm working the fields he was shot at several times by an enemy among the rebel soldiers. Then he made up his mind to get out of that place or he would lose his life. He left his wife and family on the farm and joined the Royalist. Some time after, while out with a scouting party he was taken prisoner and handcuffed and marched away between two soldiers. Night came on and it became very dark and they were going through a forest. He thought he would take another chance for his life because to go on with them as a prisoner was certain death. So he made a dash through among the trees, missed the shots that were fired after him, ran for a piece, dropped down on the ground, and lay still, scarcely breathing for fear of making a noise. They searched all around him and almost stepped on top of him. At last they gave up the search and thought they had either killed him or he had got beyond their hearing. They were forced to go on as they were in the lines of the Royalist's Army. After waiting a long while, till they were out of hearing and minutes seemed like hours, he got up and wandered around in the darkness and then had to lay down and wait for daylight. When morning came, he knew not where he was or where to go for safety and how to get the irons off his hands. Shivering, wet, and numbed with the cold and also hungry he decided to trust in Providence and go to one of the houses that he could see. Fortunately for him, he met with sympathizers and the women filed the handcuffs off; he was free once more. At last, after some difficulty he found his way home. Then he left one son, Jesse, to take care of the farm and he and his wife and the rest of his family came as U.E. Loyalists to Nova Scotia where they lived at Digby Point.

After the war was over, he left his children in Nova Scotia and he and his wife started to go back to look after his affairs and see after their son who had been left on the farm. The ship that they sailed on was

wrecked in the Bay of Fundy. Neither they nor their son Jesse were ever heard of again.

One of the boys named John migrated from Nova Scotia to Ontario in 1811. He came to Toronto and then took up land in the township of Vaughan, Lot 25, Con. 4 in York County where he died in 1842. The house which he built is still standing and is about a hundred years old.

That was the house in which my father, David Archibald, was born, (1914.) It was built of elm logs and is now used as an out building on the farm. Grandfather was buried on the same farm in the graveyard of a Methodist Church site of which he gave to that society of which he was a member at the time of his death.

Grandfather was most noted as a hard working industrious farmer. His openhearted benevolence was another characteristic. Settlers who passed his place, as the trail through the woods passed by his house to the townships farther back on their way to their homesteads, when benighted he would keep all night and feed them, their horses or cattle, free of any charge. He was ever ready to help the needy.

After Grandfather's death my father, David Archibald, traded his share in the farm in Vaughan Township for 50 acres in the Township of King. Father, being the youngest son, had Grandfather and Grandmother to keep in their old age.

In 1894, when Father died, he owned 630 acres in the Township of King. He was survived by seven children out of ten — three boys and four girls. Father seemed to be the most noted character in the family of John Archibald, Jr. He was successful in most of his business undertakings. A member of the Primitive Methodist Church of Canada before the union and a local preacher.

A brother of John Archibald, who came to Ontario in 1811, settled on the St. Lawrence River in Ontario. He was a blacksmith. During the war of 1812 the Americans put a cable across the St. Lawrence to stop the British Gun Boats and so train their guns there. He went down to the river and cut the cable with a cold chisel between the two fires."

written by Charles Archibald

They brought with them their children: Ernie, first issue and only issue of my grandfather's previous marriage to Lizzie Boyd and Gertie, Ada, Roy, and Myrtle were children of his second marriage. Roy was my father. He married my mother, Kermet Hazel Robinette, Dec. 22nd, 1923, and I was born the following year, Nov. 27th, 1924 in a granary on Burn's Hill about one quarter mile away from the homestead, SW¼ Sec 26 T 38 R 28 W of the 4th. I think it was the winter of '25 that my uncle, Sandy (Alexander Gehrke, son of August Gehrke) moved

the frame building from North Red Deer to our new place where I was to grow up (NW¼ Sec 15 T38 R28 W4). Uncle Sandy, at this writing, is still alive and living in West Park, Red Deer. He is in his 90's. Maybe it was the winter of '26 that it was moved. There was probably plenty of pressure to get to this new location to start a new life.

Anyway, my next recollection was the birth of my sister, Kay (Kathleen). I was about three and a half years old. I stayed with my grandmother while my mother recuperated with the help of Mrs. Tireman (pronounced Tire-man). Mrs. Tireman told Bertha Doig, our closest neighbour and friend, of some of my escapades. Mrs. Tireman locked me out of the house one day to keep me from getting into her freshly cooked desserts. Mrs. T. is quoted as saying, "He (me) ran around the house like a raging lion." I survived Mrs. Tireman to go on to sibling rivalry with my younger sister, Kay. It probably did not help the situation though, for my mother was apt to say, "Give it to her, Harold." if I had something that Kay wanted.

I guess my next biggest experience was attending school at Poplar Ridge. My Dad had been training me to ride a horse but for most of the first year they took me to and from school. To shorten the distance to school we would drop the barbed wire fence between Barney Raymer's on the north and I would head across the field diagonally to shorten the distance a bit. Also, our land was in Shady Nook so we must have gotten some special dispensation in order to attend Poplar Ridge. Maybe it was because I was born in Poplar Ridge and my grandparents lived there too. I don't know the reason but we were shorter by about a mile to Poplar Ridge (three miles) than to Shady Nook (four miles).

Coming into contact with boys my own age and some older was an unique experience for me. I was invariably getting into fights with a colleague in Grade 1, Richard McGee. The McGees eventually moved to the Innisfail area but before they left they had me over for dinner to heal old wounds. I was also scrapping with the Demas brothers, Leo in particular.

Miss Bjelke was quite an experience for me too. I got two strappings from her. One was for thumbing my nose at her and the other was thumbing my nose at my neighbour, Irma Chizamazia. They probably did me a world of good, the strappings that is, for they were the last I was to get throughout my elementary school years. Miss Bjelke taught me till I reached Grade 5, and Miss Neilson was my teacher through the eighth.

Poplar Ridge was a one room school with all grades through the eighth. I think there was one student in Nine preparing for the departmental. If it

was Miss Bjelke who got me started on the straight and narrow, then it was under Miss Neilson that I began to bloom academically. Miss Neilson would have the names of outstanding students listed in the Red Deer Advocate. My name would appear usually in first or second place in my grade. It was Esther Pearson, my classmate, that would do as well or better in my particular grade. It pleased my mother to see me doing well in school. Bobby Woof, probably two to three years my senior was like an older brother to me. He got a bicycle for me and I learned to ride it down the hill near our garden. When old Tom (horse) died, he was dragged to a knoll beyond the garden and buried. His weight packed the ground and formed a good trail for my first bike rides. The bike was without a coaster brake or internal gearing so I would coast down the hill and then walk back up the hill. Eventually, I became quite efficient at staying on the bike. Later, Bobby would install the coaster brake and internals and I would have my very own bike.

Billy Gaetz, son of John and Marie, was another of my closest friends. They lived about a quarter mile from the old homestead of my grandparents. Billy was related to the Gaetz's of Gaetz Avenue in Red Deer, one of the early founders of the town and now city. Ursul, Billy's sister, fell from my horse as we galloped from school one afternoon and was struck on the head by a passing hoof. She was unconscious for days but fortunately she recovered.

Glenn Theakston was another of my closest friends. Glen and I would hunt for magpie and crow eggs — there was a bounty for them. We would turn these over to our teacher for counting. This was a way of making a few pennies. (Glenn joined the army at the first opportunity and was killed during the war).

Perhaps the most frightening experiences of our growing-up was when a group of us boys found some dynamite in one of Barney Raymer's buildings on one of his quarters. We didn't know the sticks were so dangerous and were throwing them at each other as if they were pieces of wood. Fortunately there was no explosions but there were severe repercussions later when our parents learned of the situation. I was to learn to give dynamite a wide berth. Dad used dynamite occasionally to remove recalcitrant stumps on our land.

There seemed to be no end to work on the farm. Milking the cows, feeding the pigs and chickens, cleaning out the barn, feeding the stock — just no end. I resolved when I grew up I wouldn't be a farmer. Most of the work on our farm was done with horses until the late '30's when Dad got a four cylinder Rock Island Tractor. It wasn't long before I was driving the tractor. I was probably 14 going onto

15. I liked it better than driving the four horse team for plowing, harrowing, seeding, and binding.

My opportunity to leave came with the completion of high school at Red Deer High School in the town of Red Deer. I was one of the “Dorm Kids”. My principal, Ralph Whitney, suggested that I apply for an army engineering course. It was later to be called or known as the No. 2 Canadian Army University Course. However, I had no idea that I would be called by the Army (Dept. of National Defence) and Mr. Whitney suggested that working on the Alaska Highway was something that we could apply for immediately. Prior to graduation from school, we applied for work on the highway. We had our expenses paid, I don’t know who footed the bill — probably the Canadian Taxpayer. Our principal, Mr. Whitney, was our overseer and guardian on the trip. Most of his charge were twelfth grade graduates. This would be the first long term separation from my parents and family, even though living at the Dorm meant some separation, except for week-ends when I usually returned home. I was beginning to like being away from the farm. Getting away longer, maybe months, sounded even better. I looked forward to the trip north. Getting to our work site on the highway was going to be longer than originally anticipated. The trip to the work site was from Dawson Creek. Getting to Dawson Creek from Edmonton was just 25 hours but to get to our work on the highway would take weeks. Every rain meant that roads would be washed out or sections of the road, quagmire. Our vehicle had to be dragged through the mud and water on many occasions. Of course, there was waiting while other vehicles were pulled through ahead of us by large caterpillar tractors. I don’t think many of us were worried about Japanese invaders coming south. Just constructing this roadway was one heavy task. The U.S. Army was supervising the road construction. I was destined to work for the MacNamara Construction Company on a new suspension bridge across the Liard River. I started working nights, eleven hours a day, six days a week, seventy cents an hour. It was a long work week and the pay was not so hot but for a teenager like me it was pretty good. My first job (my job title was labourer) was unloading bags of cement for the bridge foundations. I remember my foreman telling me to slow down and take it easy. I never forgot that — you can work too hard.

I had been working perhaps a week — working nights when I got word that I was being considered for the Army Course and that I was to report to Mewata Barracks in Calgary. We had been given a time limit and we didn’t know if we could get there on time. The enterprising Choate Brothers had an idea — let’s fly via U.S. Army. John and Derek were

not easily dissuaded by the U.S. Army officers on the air base and we left by U.S. Army C19 for Edmonton. Once in Edmonton, it’s just a hop, skip, and a jump to Calgary.

On August 5th, 1943, I was sworn in and had to report to Camrose for Basic Training.

In Camrose, I met the rest of our group with whom I would spend a very enjoyable year of my life. Unfortunately, the army doctors found out about John and Derek’s asthma. They were very disappointed that they were not accepted. They wanted so desperately to get in. Their father had served in WW I and they had a strong sense of responsibility and duty to serve also. It was not to be. I met Derek (John and Derek were twins and very difficult to tell apart) at the Red Deer High School reunion in 1977. Derek had become an engineer and his brother who did not make the reunion is a successful doctor in Saskatchewan. There’s the breaks.

Sixty of us had been selected for this special army course which involved one year of engineering plus additional military courses at the University of Alberta in Edmonton. We had first to complete our basic training before proceeding to Edmonton. Many parts of the basic training I enjoyed. I completed the six weeks without incident. I did have to take supplements in three subjects because I wasn’t able to write them in June. I had knocked myself out when I fell from a bicycle into a tree. I was unconscious for days — long enough to miss three exams. On top of this, I was accepted without complete matriculation. They must have wanted me rather badly.

I passed the supps and began first year engineering. Tom Braithwaite of Shady Nook, who had been accepted also, was one of my roommates in St. Stephen’s Hall. St. Stephen’s and other dormitories on the campus had been taken over by either the army, navy, or air force. Tom, I knew well from Grade 9 and from competing in many foot races with him at the Old Timer’s Picnic and at other events. His and my parents were considered old timers in the district. Tom was always able to defeat me in most events but I gave him a run for his money. Tom had been one of the “Dorm Kids”, too, and had completed 11 and 12 in the Red Deer High, as I did.

Not all completed the engineering course, some flunked out at Christmas and were sent to Camrose and Currie Barracks, Calgary for their advanced training. They may have felt, too, that the action overseas was what they wanted more than completing a dreary old engineering course. However, a goodly percentage of us did complete the course and in May we were sent to Camrose for further basic training and then on to Calgary and Currie Barracks for advanced training. June 6th, 1944, D-Day, I remem-

ber well as we had just begun our final advanced training at Currie. It would be a series of many months before I would join a unit in Europe. It was almost as if the hand of fate was involved in keeping an eye on me. Even when I finally joined my unit, the Loyal Edmonton Regiment, things were not that tough and casualties in our unit were quite low during the closing months of the war. VE-Day, May 8th, found me in the little Dutch town of Elspeet. It was a joyful day.

As the Loyal Eddies were part of the First Division and had served in the Mediterranean Theatre the high command felt that they should be represented in the March down Unter den Linden in Berlin at the meeting of the BIG 3, the Potsdam Conference. It was in Italy that the Regiment had received their Loyal status for outstanding duty. At first we were told there would be a brigade from our division but eventually only a battalion was selected for this duty. I felt fortunate to be chosen for this military operation. I was also a low pointer and many of the high pointers had received their good news by being sent home for discharge.

It was in Berlin that an accident occurred that marred an otherwise enjoyable assignment. While examining a P38, 9 mm Walther machine pistol, I accidentally discharged the weapon into one of my comrades-in-arms. He was not seriously wounded but I was to be made an example of by the Division Commander, General Guy Simmonds. Twenty-eight days in the digger was reduced to just 28 days pay and confinement to barracks. I was fairly lucky. This incident has clouded my view of handguns ever since. I would never, ever have a handgun in my possession again.

After my personal debacle in Berlin, we were returned to Holland. Those with high points in my unit, the Loyal Eddies returned home as a unit and the low pointers were sent to Nymegen while the Canadian Army decided what to do with us. A stint with the Leave Center in Amsterdam appealed to me and I accepted this in lieu of service in the occupation forces in Germany. I was to remain in A'dam until June 1946, when I was returned home to demobilization. While in A'dam, I met Ank Schuppers and her mother. Ank had served with the Dutch underground during the last months of the war. A unique experience occurred for me in 1977-78 when I located her and her family in Groningen and was able to spend a few days with her and her family. Her mother still remembered the 'Canadeze soldat' and wondered if I still was 'in dienst' (service). Her mind was failing but it was so good to see her, she's 84 years old.

July 30th, 1946, I was demobbed after taking a

month's leave travelling to my mother's ancestral home in Hartville, Missouri. My army office was rather lenient with me considering the firearm incident and Capt. Leggatt wished me bon voyage and all success for the engineering courses that I was to continue with in the U. of A. at Edmonton. In 1949, I received my B. Sc. in Civil Engineering and in 1950 and '51, I continued in a Master's Program. This is still incomplete but was good experience for me. Besides the Master's Courses that I took toward an M. Sc. Degree, I had some opportunity to teach.

In 1951, I began working for Dominion Bridge in their Edmonton Office, then called Standard Iron & Engineering Works. I worked for them for about a year and then began working for Rule-Wynn & Rule, Architects. I worked for them for four years before emigrating to the U.S. at Oakland, California, to join Kaiser Engineers in May, 1956.

After graduation in 1949, I married Jean Esther Fraser Smith of Sexsmith, Alberta, September 9th, 1949. I met Jean in the Metropolitan Church Choir in Edmonton where we both sang and which was under the directorship of Mr. Gerald Gish. Four of our five children were born at the University of Alberta Hospital. Dr. Vant assisted. Carol Elizabeth, born June 13th, 1950, was married to John Kirchmeier in Honolulu, Hawaii, May 14th, 1977. John and Carol are now living in Enfield, CT, where John is a helicopter pilot and mechanic and Carol is a licensed vocational nurse.

Barbara Joan, born Oct. 27th, 1951, was married to Steven Ross Beckman of Sacramento, June 26th, 1976. Steven is completing his Doctorate at the Univ. of Calif. at Davis, in Economics. Barbara is a graduate in Home Economics. She is presently working for the University in the Chemistry Dept. They have one son, David Andrew, born Dec. 22nd, 1979, at the Kaiser Hospital in Sacramento.

David John, born July 31st, 1953, is single and lives at North Bend, Oregon. He works for a myrtle wood factory in the area. His spare time is devoted to wood carving and selling his wares at craft stores and fairs in the area.

Susan Dawn, born Oct. 13, 1955, was married to Terrence Richard Press of Spokane, Washington, June 1st, 1976, at Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, and are now residing in Larkspur, Calif. Terrence is a building contractor in the area. Susan completed her Associate Arts degree in Kirkland, Wash. They have two children, Joel David, born June 29, 1977, and Ryan Daniel, born Nov. 1st, 1978.

Robert Duane, born June 10th, 1957, was the only child born in the United States. Robert has completed a three year tour of duty with the U.S. Cavalry in Germany and is now a student at the

University of California at Davis where he is an under-graduate in biological science.

October 17th, 1978, I was remarried to Barbara Jane Hudson of Flint, Michigan. Barbara is a graduate in education from the University of Michigan and is a market researcher and therapeutic masseuse. She often wonders if she could be related to the great explorer, Henry Hudson. Maybe she is, who knows?

In Oct., 1978, I was pleased to be part of a 35 year reunion of our #2 Can. Army Univ. Course. Not all of the old members could be located. It brought tears to my eyes to see our Captain, Capt. E. W. Newland, who looked most hale for his 85 years. He had been looking forward to the reunion also. I hope we have many more. There had been only two known casualties from our group. One had been accidentally killed in a plane crash after the war and one had died of heart attack.

Archibald

by Kathleen Vanden Brink

David Morrison Archibald left Georgetown, Ontario, with his wife, Sarah, two sons, Ernest and Roy, three daughters: Ada (McClure), Gertrude (Jarvis), and Myrtle (Gehrke) in 1899. The eldest, Ernest, was 12 years, the youngest, Myrtle, 10 months. They arrived in Red Deer in the fall with some furniture, personal belongings and \$25.00 in cash. They spent the first winter in the Immigration House in Red Deer. In the spring of 1900, he established a homestead five miles west of Red Deer in the district of Poplar Ridge and moved his family there to a log house he had built. Roy Archibald was three years old when they moved there. He grew up there and attended the first school that was built in the district which was three miles northwest of the Homestead.

In December, 1923, Roy married Kermit Robinett who had immigrated from Missouri with her father and brother in 1920. He bought a farm one mile south and one mile west of his father's homestead which was still in the district of Poplar Ridge. They had six children in the next 17 years, all of whom attended the Poplar Ridge School. The two eldest took their first eight years in the old School house their Father had attended, Harold and Kathleen. The next two, Gary and Joyce, took their first few years in the old school and finished up to Grade Eight in the new school which was built in 1944. The youngest two, James and Robin, started in the new school.

They lived in the Poplar Ridge District until 1951 and then moved into Red Deer. The farm was sold a few years later.

Roy David Archibald passed away December, 1964. His wife, Kermit, in December, 1949. Their

six children have all moved away from the district and area.

Harold D. Archibald — Civil Eng. Oakland, Calif. — 5 children. Kathleen Vanden Brink — Calgary — 3 children. Gary M. Archibald — Geologist — Ottawa — 2 children (adopted). Joyce H. Rowe — New Westminster — 4 children. James H. Archibald — Miner — Dawson City, Yukon — Single. Robin R. Archibald — Miner — Dawson City, Yukon — Single.

The Atkins Family

William H. Atkins was born in 1837 and lived near Rochester, New York. In 1860, he moved to St. Vincent Township, Grey County, Ontario. In 1898, he came out to the Poplar Ridge district and homesteaded on NE 12-39-28 West of the 4th. Mr. Atkins died on July 18, 1907 of a heart attack while returning to his house after closing the gate. His wife, Sophia, passed away on June 30, 1910 at the age of 76.

The Atkins had twelve children, six sons and six daughters:

William R. was born in Rochester on January 3, 1859. He came out to Poplar Ridge in 1898 and homesteaded on SW 2-39-28 West of the 4th. He was very active in local affairs and served on the Poplar Ridge school board. He was married to Hannah Norris, a sister to Mr. George S. Norris, and they had four children. Their son, George Francis, joined "B" Company of the 89th Battalion C.E.F. in 1916 and was killed in action in France on April 28, 1917. Their daughters were Pearl (Mrs. George Woods), May (Mrs. F. A. Heanski) and Ruth (Mrs. H. J. Lamont). William passed away on August 9, 1921 and Hannah died on September 28, 1932.

Matilda Sarah was born in 1861 in Grey County. She moved to Sault Ste. Marie after her marriage to Mr. Patton. She was widowed in 1903 and in 1906, she moved to Red Deer to take care of her sister, **Elizabeth (Mrs. Louis Morton)**. Mrs. Morton passed away before she arrived and Mrs. Patton undertook the care of her four nieces and nephews, Elizabeth (Mrs. Alexander Greenway), Myrtle (Mrs. Lloyd McNally), John and Tom, in addition to her own children, William, Nathaniel and Mrs. P. Combes.

James was born in Grey County in 1863. In 1898 he moved to Maple Creek, Saskatchewan and in 1900, he came to Poplar Ridge. He passed away in Red Deer on November 26, 1928. James was married to Jennie Travers. However, she passed away on November 20, 1920 and he then married Mrs. Lizzie Brown of Carman, Manitoba. He had two step-children.

Levi was born in Grey County in 1870. He moved to Poplar Ridge in 1898 and homesteaded on SE 2-39-28 west of the 4th. In 1908, he rented his farm to Harry Strong and went first to Northern Alberta and then to the United States and British Columbia. In 1910, he came back to Poplar Ridge, but in 1916, his farm was purchased by Sam Hart. He moved back to B.C. and passed away at Cranbrook on December 26, 1922.

Daniel was married to Sarah (Kitty) Hart, daughter of William Henry Hart. His wife passed away in 1903 of tuberculosis, leaving a family of two sons and two daughters, Frank, William, Pearl and Jennie. Frank served for many years with the Royal North West Mounted Police. In September, 1926, he married Sarah Coustance, a former school teacher at Poplar Ridge and Crossroads. They had one son, Carl, who was born in High Prairie and who died in 1955, and two daughters, Helen (Mrs. Allan Elliott) who was born in Detroit and now lives in Calgary, Jennie (Mrs. Armstrong) who was born in Red Deer and now lives in Coquitlam, B.C. Mrs. Sarah Atkins died in 1971 and Frank, who is now 86, lives in High Prairie.

The other children were **Martha (Mrs. Harry Mitchell)** who moved to Sault Ste. Marie in 1907 and later lived in Detroit, **Mrs. M. H. Smith**, who lived in Los Angeles, California, **Mrs. M. A. Cole**, who lived at Kalispeil, Montana, **John**, who lived at Sault Ste. Marie and later in the Peace River country, **Mrs. E. A. MacDonald**, who lived in Montana, and **Thomas**, who lived in Santiago and later in the Peace River country.

Henry Luther Austin by Millard Austin

Henry Luther Austin came from Oakdale, Nebraska, U.S.A., in 1901. His wife was the former Rose Prevo. The Austins were farmers and came to Alberta for a better life. They wanted to get away from the drought in Nebraska. They homesteaded NE ¼ 30-38-28-W4. There was no land broken on the quarter so the first land was cleared by hand and broke by horse. Their first house was built of logs.

Austins had the first tractor and the first threshing machine driven by horse power in the district.

A neighbour, Mr. Bill Hunt, had the first car. Millard Austin started school in Poplar Ridge in 1911.

Dances and card parties were held at the home of H. L. Austin several times a year. All the neighbours for miles attended these gatherings. Upstairs was like a large ball room. Downstairs was for the card players. All the children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren of "Uncle Lute" learned to play 500 as soon

as they were old enough to know cards. You also had to play horse shoes. He was a good teacher of both.

Henry Luther and Rose had eight children:

Orley Ernest born in Oakdale, Neb., in 1894. He married Connie Wilson, who taught school at Poplar Ridge. They had three children: Peggy, the eldest is a nurse and lives in Kimberly, B.C. Chesley, the only son died at an early age. Joyce lives at Alta. Lake.

William John born in Oakdale, Neb., in 1896. He married Mary Smith and they had six children.

Rosie Marie married Gus Poffenroth and their four children are: Ken who lives in Calgary and has a daughter Rose Marie. He works for the City of Calgary.

Janet married Don Giffin. Their children are Darrel, Deanna and Dale. They live in Washington, U.S.A.

Kerry married Marion Lottery from Trochu and they have two daughters; Corrinne and Kyla.

Vern works for the Red Deer Fire Dept.

William Earl married Margaret Swanson. Four children resulted from this union.

Linda married Gil Hills. They live in Benalto and have two daughters: Tonja and Chantel.

Sharon married Ken Lightbrown. They also have two daughters: Kelsey and Erin.

William James lives in Banalto.

Sandra May is a rehabilitation councillor and at present is working at Michener Centre.

Evelyn Beatrice married Moss Jensen. Their son, Merle, recently graduated from S.A.I.T. with a degree in Civil Engineering. He works for the City of Red Deer.

Lorna married Kendall King and works at Michener Centre.

Harold Luther married Lori MacDonald. He has one daughter, Diane, from a former marriage and he and Lori have a daughter, Suzanne, who graduated this year and a son, Lane; a hockey and ball enthusiast. Harold has been with Greyhound Bus Lines for 28 years.

Eugene married Carol Cody. They have three daughters: Teresa who graduated from high school this year. Tammy is taking a beauty course and Susan.

Orlie Lewis died at a very young age.

Willard Ora married Emily Farmer. They have four sons. Mervin married Louise Miller and they have three children: Bonnie who works for the Government in Edmonton. Darrel apprenticing in diesel engines and Robert still in school.

Ronald married Dalores. They have four sons: Daniel, Kelly, Kevin and Bradley all at home.



Mr. and Mrs. Luther Austin.

Vern married Judy Taylor. They have three children: Debbie, Dean and Mandy.

James married Linda Armstrong. He is a manager at Woolco in Calgary.

Vera married Ray James. He passed away several years ago. Vera still lives at their place in Longview, Washington. They had three children:

Delores married Bob Champion and their four children are: Sandra, Ronald, Debbie and Sandra.

Darrel and his wife, Dee, have three boys: Michael, Steve and Ricky. Their only daughter, Lorraine, died young from pneumonia.

Retta married Ray DePauw and they live near Blaine, Washington. They lost their eldest son while still young.

Arnold married Winefred Tregar and they have three daughters and one son.

Odette married Bob Powell and they live at Abbotsford, B.C. The names of their seven children are: Gordon, Linda, Gary, Janet, Randy, Debbie and Donna.

Arthur (Buster) married Hilda Knoll and they live in Condor district. They have three daughters and one son:

Gail married Jim Stech and they have a daughter, Lisa. They live at Calmar.

Arlene married Jim Armet.

Brian married Norma Billings.

Jennifer lives at Bonnyville.

Bailey, William and Ellen

Bailey — William and Ellen (nee Lee) filed on homestead N.W. ¼ 28-38-28 W4 in 1901. They came from Chedwyn, Nebraska, to Poplar Ridge by covered wagon. Three trips were made by Bill Bailey before they were completely settled in. The family consisted of Viola (married name Wade), Forrest, Blanche, Leroue, Orabelle, Elsie, George, and "Casey". Blanche, Leroue, Orabelle, and Elsie went to the Poplar Ridge school. The Bailey family returned to the United States in 1907, settling in Wyoming. W. Hunt was the next owner.

Belich, Nicholas

by Geo. Belich

Cattle Brand for Belich Bros. Left Hip $\frac{3}{4}$
Nick and Dan Belich Brand Left hip $\frac{5}{8}$

Late in the year 1911, Nikola Belich left his native Yugoslavia and made his way to the U.S. on a passport which was not strictly legal as far as the Austro-Hungarian Authorities of the time were concerned. The people of the country were oppressed and down-trodden; there was very little to eat. Robbery was very common and a man could be killed without consequences if you had about \$30.00 to pay off the Magistrate.

Nick took the first opportunity to escape these circumstances, leaving behind a young bride with unborn child. He worked his way through the U.S. and finally joined his brother, Fred, in British Columbia on a railway construction job. Fred had heard of "America" where you could work for gold, and if you didn't want to work you could dig your own. He made his way over in 1904, too late for the Klondike gold rush.

Nick soon decided he would like to farm, and came to Alberta to work on farms and ranches in the Calgary area.

The Crown Prince of Austria was assassinated at Sarajevo, Yugoslavia in 1914, touching off the First World War. Nick was in Red Deer at the time and he promptly enlisted to serve with the 10th Canadian Infantry in such places as Vimy Ridge, Hill 70, Paschendale and survived the first German gas attack at Ypres in 1915, where many Canadian B.C. Regiment were killed or captured, victims of poison gas and the infamous Ross rifle. Nick was gassed and wounded three times and carried schrapnel in his chest until death.

"Uncle" Fred, in the meantime, had joined a company of volunteers and went to train in Algeria under the French Foreign Legion which attacked the German Forces from the South through Greece and Albania, suffering untold misery and hardship.

After the Armistice, Nick went to school in Calgary where he mastered a few 1-2-3's and a-b-c's and managed to acquire the academic status of Grade Eight. In the meantime, he negotiated with the Soldier Settlement Board for the purchase of the N.E. 26-38-28-4 just west of Red Deer at the east edge of the Poplar Ridge School District. Nick assembled his "outfit" at Irricana. This consisted of four heavy horses and a one-eyed "buggy mare", a wagon and box, sulky plow with "breaker" bottom, section of harrows, a few household articles and grub, the inevitable scythe and a handful of tools including crosscut saw, axe, and grubhoe. He headed up the trail to Red Deer. In high gear, it was a three day trip.

The house he moved into was a 14' x 18' log structure built by the former resident, a very colorful Metis named Narcisse, who is well remembered by the early settlers of the area.

Mr. Larry Telning was working with three head of horses and an 18" sulky plow about 1904 on the N.E. 25-37-1-5, the site of Roy Swainson's old Warrior Turkey Ranch. A man and two Indian women came along the trail driving a team and buckboard leading a pair of cream colored horses (later called Palomino). This man was Narcisse and he had been told by local Indians that sometime following the American Civil War, probably in the early 1870s, there had been some dry years and the muskeg in low areas were burning — covering the country with smoke and fog for months. Another story of how Burnt Lake got its name!



Percy, Martha Belich helping with chores.

About 1927, the N.E. 24-38-28 was acquired for \$8,000.00 with \$600.00 down and 8½% interest. This was known as the Wilkinson place and is the site of a stopping house on the C & E Trail just northeast of the old crossing. The building stood until the late 1930s. One can well remember the inside walls of this two-storey log structure papered with old Missouri magazines dated in the 1870s and 1880s. What stories the old framed pictures on those walls could have told! It is reported that this house was built about 1884 by the grandfather of Ken Wilkinson, now of Sylvan Lake, born there in 1907.

Larry Telning told of a murderer who was followed from Edmonton by a posse and shot near the start of the Burnt Trail at the present Red Deer Golf Course. The man who pulled the trigger could not stand to fire this gun again, so he nailed it to a rafter in the old stage stopping house where it remained for over 20 years until 1922 when someone took it down and put it to some other useful purpose.

There is no use talking about the hard times with which most are familiar, but Nick Belich never lost his sense of humor. Mike Milich who is now retired in Scarborough, Ontario, tells the tale of how when backsetting with four horses he hit a stump which had not yet rotted. When he urged the horses on, the eveners broke so he replaced them with another set from the nearby harrows. Same result! "Well, I'll get the steel ones from the John Deere binder," he said. Then: "Giddap Archie!" The steel did not break but folded up like an accordion. There was nothing to do but go home two miles and report to the boss.

"Why didn't you get the eveners off the harrows?" "I did," said Mike. "Well, there is a good set on the binder." "I know, I fixed them too." Nick pondered that bad news for a moment and then said, "Well, I suppose the people who make those things, they have to live too."

Those early years were occupied with the clearing of land and building up the herd of cattle, pigs, and kids. Helen (Mrs. Bob Ninkovich), Martha (Mrs. Jack Roth), Percy and George, who still retain the old place.

Some of the methods of clearing land were interesting. The big balm and poplar trees were removed by exposing the roots on the northwest side with a grub hoe and cutting them off, then the first high wind would blow them over. In the winter, the trees were cut, leaving a four foot stump, probably used for firewood.

The next summer a team of "stump puller" horses were hitched to the top of the stump and as they leaned into the pull, the man would cut roots until the stump was finally out. The horses would

soon learn the procedure which required that they lean into the collars and hang on.

A good team was a real asset and a pleasure to watch. Such a team was old Club and George who hardly even needed a rein to guide them. Another method of removing the big ones was with “stump-powder” when one could afford the cost.

Uncle Fred renounced the seven acres of land that was given to him by the Yugoslavian Government for his services and came back to Canada in September, 1924. On May 21, 1927, his son, Michael R. “Big Mike” arrived from Yugoslavia and for a few years they farmed near the Penhold bridge.

Uncle Fred was a great friend of children. He was also something of a culinary expert and could make a good meal out of almost nothing. Many a Sunday would find his “schack” full of young people who came to visit and partake of his specialty, chicken and noodles, and deep apple pie. He later moved to Red Deer and passed on October 6, 1960, at the age of 80 years.

Big Mike moved to Red Deer and operated a construction firm for many years. He is now semi-retired and lives in Red Deer with his wife, the former Frances Lawson. Son, Melvin, is a lawyer in Calgary and daughter, Marlene, is in Social Work in Lloydminster.

Not to be forgotten is Mother Maria’s role in those early days. Like many pioneer women, she could grub stumps, stook grain, milk cows and always had a huge garden, twice too much of everything that would grow in the good soil. One can remember with pleasure coming home from school to the smell of her homemade bread and rolls in the oven and her words of encouragement which made you think you were having fun while doing the evening chores and bringing in the night’s supply of wood and water. Her job was especially hard during Nick’s frequent illnesses in the Belcher Hospital in Calgary.

The only job “Ma” refused to do was drive horses. That work befell the lot of daughter, Helen, who was a wonderful help and could drive a six horse team as good as any man and take the horse and buggy to town to deliver the can of cream and bring back the weekly supply of groceries and mail.

Nick Belich never realized his ambition of moving to the “Wilkinson place: but the family did move in 1952. However, the neighbors at the old place must be mentioned. To the south were Low’s and Mrs. Reveyrand from France; west — Harry Christie, a bachelor from Ontario; east — Jim Wright and family from England. The MacLeod family from the Hebrides settled to the north in 1923. The MacLeod’s needed some seed oats that spring so the elder Mac-

Leod, Norman, came to Nick one day. Upon examining a handful of seed, he found a black oat.

“Now what is this?”

“That’s a wild oat, they are black!”

“With typical Scots thrift, Norman said, “Ach, I can see it’s black but will it grow?”

“You damn right it will grow!” Nick replied with justifiable conviction.

It is said that this is how the MacLeods got their start in wild oats. There is no record of where Nick got his first start, but the finger of suspicion points to the Braithwaites of Shady Nook.

Nick and Norman had many arguments during the 20 years of “Neighboring” political, theological and just anything at all but they were the best of friends. When Nick passed on in 1943, at the early age of 52, Norman paid him the greatest tribute possible. He, personally, laid a wreath on the casket.

Ma Belich continued to live on the farm until moving to town where she passed on August 3, 1967, at the age of 76.

Helen married Bob Ninkovich who was a miner by trade. In 1939, they built a house on the Wilkinson place. In 1948, Bob bought the S.W. 14-38-28 just west of the Indian School and severed by the Burnt Lake road. The house was moved to the new place where they lived until Bob’s passing, February 16, 1969. Helen lived in the district until her untimely death, January 30, 1973. Their family consists of three boys, George, Don and Lance, all now residing in the area.

Martha married Jack Roth. They have three boys: Greg, Jim and Don, and one daughter, Sandra, and five grandchildren. Percy married Irene Popowich and they have a son, Stewart, and a daughter, Norana. They reside on a farm eight miles northwest of Red Deer.

George Belich by Marian Belich

George Belich was born on July 14, 1922, at the original home place, N.E. 24-38-28-W4, and lived there for many years, attending Poplar Ridge School for seven years from 1929-1936.

George’s parents were Nikola Belich, born in Yugoslavia, and his mother was Maria (Kjlaic), born in Yugoslavia as well. They were both raised and married in Yugoslavia.

George and Elsie were married on December 10, 1943. George Belich met Elsie Biswanger (born on June 27, 1923, in Red Deer) when she was working as a housekeeper for Bill and Sybil Hazlett. They had their romantic honeymoon at the Calgary Stockyards. They lived at the “old home place”, for ten years then moved to their present location in 1952.



George, Elsie, Debra, Dan, Carol, Nick, Marie, about 1972.

The present home is a half a mile from the city limits, the first farm on the Burnt Lake Trail, where George farms and runs a feedlot with his brother, Percy, and two sons, Nick and Dan.

Elsie's Dad was Stephen Biswanger, born on March 11, 1883, in Nova Scotia, and Elsie's mother, Annetta Carswell, born on March 9, 1886 in Nicola, B.C. Stephen met Annetta while she was in the Shady Nook area. Nettie taught school at the Shady Nook School in 1907. They were married at the Carswell farm (her parents) east of Penhold. They lived in Innisfail until 1925, then moved to the Bingley district, where they homesteaded until 1948. Then they moved to the Poplar Ridge area on an acreage (acreage of present owner of Bill Woof). They lived there until they lost their home in a fire and retired in North Red Deer in 1951. They had a family of eight children.

George and Elsie have three daughters and two sons, Nick married Marian Ranger and they have two sons, Kurt and Eric. They live in the Poplar Ridge district.

Carol, now Mrs. Ginter Unruh, has two daughters, Bonnie and Rhonda. They live in Red Deer. Marie married Jack Mulrooney and they have one son, Murray, and one daughter Jackie. They live at Innisfail.

Daniel married Melodie Stewart and they have

two sons, Stephen and Andrew. They live on the old home quarter.

Debra married Kirk Sheppard from Ponoka and they reside in Lacombe.

Elsie passed away on March 29th, 1976.

Belich, Percy and Irene

by Irene Belich

Belich, Percival Frederick, born May 28, 1927, at the Red Deer General Hospital and is thought to be one of the first Caesarean Sections performed in this area. Subsequently, his parents, Nikola and Maria Belich named their youngest son after the attending physician, Dr. Percival Bachus. His older brother and sisters were Helen, George and Martha.

He was raised in the Poplar Ridge area, N.E. 26 T 38 R 28 W4, know as the old home quarter, bought by his parents through the Soldier Settlement Board. A living was eked out from 80 arable acres plus milk cows, pigs, chickens and a garden. A hired man occasionally helped for a wage of \$10/month.

School attendance was at the one room Poplar Ridge School, a distance of three and three quarter miles away. The mode of transportation was by horse shared by his brother, George, and sister, Martha. Classes at that time were from Grade I to Grade VIII.

Forms of entertainment were simple. One instance related was to push the buggy up a hill, jump in, and ride down, (Unfortunately, the rider didn't jump on quickly enough and consequently was run over), horseback riding with daring tricks performed at a full gallop and in later years played on the district baseball team.

In 1952, the Belich family moved to the present feedlot site, N.E. 24-38-28, and gradually expanded their farming interests to mixed grain farming and feedlot operation.

In February, 1961, Percy married the former Irene Popowich from the Red Deer area, who was a registered nurse from the University of Alberta Hospital, Edmonton. They settled on the S.E. 11-39-28-W4 quarter bought in 1958 from Willibald Huss.

Progress has been made in the way of a new home. The old house built by Mr. Huss in the 1930's has been moved to a farm near Lesliville. Gone are the days of a summer kitchen, two feet of water in the basement during spring run off. The old "Out house" and the inevitable skunk between you, the out house and the house. It never failed that when one was finally ensconced in the little house, company would arrive.

Two children have blessed the Percy Belich family, Norana Joy, born January 2, 1962, and Stewart John Frederic, born January 16, 1965. Norana is in training for an X-Ray Technician and Stewart is in

high school and plans to join the family farming operation.



Percy and Irene Belich, Stewart, Noranda, November, 1977.

Belich, Nick and Marian by Marian Belich

We were married February 24, 1973. Nicholas Stephen Belich was born on October 2, 1951, in Red Deer. Marian Nora (Ranger) was born on December 19, 1954, in Red Deer, as well. We have two boys, Kurt Nicholas born on January 28, 1974, and Eric Russel born October 2, 1979. At the time of the Poplar Ridge reunion on July 1, 1980, Eric was the youngest resident of Poplar Ridge. He received a plaque from the oldest former resident of Poplar Ridge, Bill Smith, for being the youngest resident.

When we were first married, we lived in a trailer in Elsie and George's yard, Nick's parents, the first farm off the Burnt Lake Trail.

Then, in November of 1973, we moved the trailer one half mile east of the former Midway Service Station on the No. 11 Highway (the old Red Deer Airport site). We lived there for four years, then subdivided a 2.2 acreage, which we sold to Robert Mullin.

We then moved into a house on the quarter section of S.E. 32-28-38 W of the 4th in May of 1978, which was formerly owned by Bill Stalenhoef, where we reside at the present time.

Nick and I are both graduates of the Lindsay Thurber Composite High School. Nick started farming at an early age and has seen the many advances made in this occupation. Nick was active in the Beef 4-H Club. He still enjoys his outdoor life of hunting and fishing, as he did as a child.



Nick and Marion, Kurt and Eric Belich, July, 1980.

Nick's parents' history included in George Belich's history.

Marian's parents are Gaston Ranger, born in Kindersley, Saskatchewan, and Lanora (Pollard) born in Blaine Lake, Saskatchewan. Mom and Dad met and married in Regina, Saskatchewan on September 16, 1941. Then Dad served five years overseas in the Second World War. They came to Red Deer in 1946, where they farmed and live presently south west of Red Deer. They had a family of seven children.

Dad's dad, Raoul Ranger, and mother, Hortense (Bourgon) originated from Montreal. They homesteaded in Saskatchewan.

Mother's dad, Thomas Pollard, born in England, and mother, Zora (Church) Pollard, born in North Carolina, U.S.A., homesteaded, as well, in Saskatchewan.

Daniel and Melodie Belich by Melodie Belich

Daniel Percival Belich was born October 5, 1958. He is the youngest son of George and the late Elsie Belich.

Dan went to school in River Glen and Lindsay Thurber Comprehensive High. During those years, he participated in 4-H Clubs from 1967-75. He was on the volleyball team and involved in Track and Field. In High School, he was on a man's handball team.

In 1975, he met Melodie Stewart from Red Deer. Dan graduated in 1977 and then started working full time on the family farm.

Dan and Melodie were married November 4, 1978. They lived in an apartment in Red Deer for six months and then moved to the old homestead, N.E.



Dan and Melodie Belich, Andrew, Stephen, October, 1979.

24-38-28 W4, of Nikola and Maria Belich, grandparents of Dan.

Down came what remained of the old corrals and parts of the log cabin where George, Dan's father, was born. They made a small pen to raise a few sheep and calves.

They now have two sons, Stephen Lane, born June 16, 1976 and Andrew George, born August 1, 1979.

Arthur Berry Family

We moved to Poplar Ridge Estates, December 14, 1979, Lot 10, Poplar Ridge Cr. Our first neighbors were Charlotte and Wayne Hughes who moved in December 15, 1979.

Art was born in Lloydminster, Sask., and raised in Marwayne, Alta. He took his schooling in Marwayne, Kitscoty and Edmonton. He worked for Cairns Homes in Regina for 21 years before being transferred to Edmonton in March, 1973. In September, 1974, transferred to Red Deer where he is branch manager for Cairns. Art is married to Shirley and have three children and one grandson.

Shirley was born and raised in Regina and is presently working at Parsons Clinic.

Laurie Jonas (daughter) was born in Regina

where she took her schooling and also in Sherwood Park and Red Deer. Laurie is married to Karl Jonas. Laurie works at Cairns Homes. Karl is a bricklayer in Red Deer.

Kathy Klumpenhower (daughter) — Kathy, like Laurie, took her schooling in Red Deer, Regina, and Sherwood Park. Kathy is married to Henry Klumpenhower and has a son, Jason. Kathy is a homemaker. They live in Red Deer. Henry is a construction framer.

George (son) like his sisters took his schooling in Regina, Sherwood Park and Red Deer. George is in Grade 12 and plays football for Lindsay Thurber Composite High School. He plays raquetball and golf and enjoys skiing.

Don and Bertha Berry

Don and Bertha Berry bought the McDonnell farm, S.W. ¼ 34 and 80 acres of N.W. ¼ of 34-38-28 W4; through the V.L.A. in 1950. They came from Northern Saskatchewan. At that time they had a little daughter, Lynn. They had a garage in Saskatchewan after Don's discharge from the Army.

Don and George Schilltroth did custom brush piling and breaking when they first came to the district.

Don and Bertha, both, took an active part in the community. Bertha joined the Women's Institute. Don enjoyed curling in the Farmer's Bonspiels.

Their second daughter, Lee, was born about 1952.

The farm was sold to Dave Larrett and Don reserved 26 acres where he set up a pig operation. This was sold, too, about 1958 and the family moved to Red Deer for a year or so. From there they moved to B.C. where they still live.

The Raymond Bertram Family by Freda Bertram

It was the year 1948, March 28th, that we arrived in the Poplar Ridge district. Raymond, Freda and two girls, Barbara age 7, and Carol four and a half years.

We had bought the farm from Mr. and Mrs. John Buga located at N.E. ¼, Sec 33, Twp. 38, Range 28, West of the 4th M. We also purchased the 80 acres across the road to the east of us. Being about six miles west of Red Deer on the No. 11 Highway, which we still own today, as of June, 1980.

The Bugas had their farm sale and were getting ready to leave for Lethbridge but as it took a few days to get things settled, they were in the house with us for the time being when we arrived. They were rather interested in the little girls who came to live in the house previously occupied by only two adults and I



Ray and Freda Bertram.



Barbara Bertram, Jean Thompson, Carol Bertram, Beth Thompson, Darlene Bertram, Dorian Bertram.

think found pleasure in their presence as they were very friendly with us all but especially delighted in the children.

It was a warm sunny Saturday afternoon when we arrived in our blue Terraplane car. There was still some slushy snow around. The next day was Easter Sunday and the girls had fun finding their Easter "goodies" which the "Bunny" had hidden for them. Also, on this Easter Sunday morning there was a fair amount of fresh fallen snow that came during the night that covered many of the things we had brought with us and still unpacked. Several trucks had brought our approximately forty head of cattle, our nice black team of horses (Prince and Babe) and a young colt we called "Flicka". A truck load of pigs of various sizes and crates of chickens and turkeys. All had to be looked after before nightfall so it was a very busy and exciting time for us. But, all went fairly well.

It was rather a nice change living near a highway which had a "just right" amount of traffic on it then, to be noticed and the feeling of not being isolated as to the quiet area where we had come from at Irricana, about forty miles northeast of Calgary.

Barbara started at the Poplar Ridge school after the Easter holidays to finish her grade one, having started the previous September back home. Her first teacher was Nadine Haluschuk until September, 1949, when Mr. Barnett came. Then Mr. Sam Davidson came in approximately September, 1950, and stayed until the schools closing in June, 1958, when the children were bussed into Red Deer to River Glen school.

Carol started in September, 1949, with Mr. Barnett as her first teacher then also Mr. Davidson until being bused into Red Deer where she finished her education.

In April, 1949, Darleen was born to us and in 1950, Dorian came to us so now we had our wanted boy to round out our family. It was a very happy time indeed to have our busy little family all so willing and eager to help us with chores inside and outside as well. Asked one day what the children wanted for Christmas, I remember Carol saying, "A little red barn fork." She was only seven or eight. I don't remember the others' wants.

Darleen and Dorian started at Poplar Ridge school in September, 1955, with Mr. Sam Davidson and were later bussed into River Glen school in Red Deer also.

The place we now called home with its tall spruce trees around the house and needless to say there was much bush and tall timbers on the farm. It was beautiful, simply beautiful, to have so many trees as we had very few on the prairie where we lived. Our

first garden here was also so beautiful and so bountiful. We just couldn't believe how well everything grew. We had plenty of rainfall which we all enjoyed. There were only about 24 acres of broken land for crop on the home place and about 50 acres across the road to the east. Raymond realized the bush didn't produce anything and would have to be cleared in order to make more cropland and pasture for the cattle.

Well, I'm wrong to say the bush didn't produce anything, for in the summer when we went out across the fields and bush land of tall trees we found great big luscious raspberries in abundance. Just pails and pails full of them. Ray, indeed, felt he was in a heavenly bliss to have so much delicious fruit for the picking. Also such an abundance of saskatoons and many other kinds of berries for jam and jelly making. We really did thrill at our fruitful find and enjoyed as many as possible fresh and canned. All we needed for winter use. Needless to say, we spent many hours picking the lovely berries. This was another treat we never had on the prairie. So we really felt blessed. We often used to take picnic lunches and the children in our then newly acquired maroon Chev. Truck (1950) and go up on the "hilltop" to pick berries, build a fire for our wiener roasts and watch the birds in the bushes and marvel at the beautiful sight all around, the spring running below and we'd watch for deer we would sometimes see come to drink. One day a moose came close to our buildings. This was a rare occasion, but we often saw deer.

Sometimes our friends would come up to spend a Sunday with us and we all enjoyed the outdoor beauty while picking berries. They were indeed many lovely times to remember. Though we sometimes got bee stings, also, we always carried a blueing bag for that purpose to help ease the sore spot for the one who may have got stung.

In 1949, Ray decided to get the bush cleared out to make way for more crop land and pasture. Also the big timbers would become lumber for a new house in the future. So, he got busy with the axe, the cross cut saw and lots of ambition to cut down the trees by arm power. Then a big bulldozer was located to come in to do more clearing. It took Ray a whole winter to limb the trees and skid them out with the horses into piles. The days were short and very cold that winter, mostly 30 to 40 below zero. After milking cows, feeding pigs and that kind of chores, he would set out with his team and lunch for the woods. When it came time to eat, the lunch was frozen solid, so he'd build a fire to warm up and thaw the lunch over the fire. Then after that episode of a few days, I put the lunch between two warm hot water bottles, that worked for awhile to.

Our good neighbor then, Harold Brackney, came and helped Ray with the logging. He was also working on some of his own trees for lumber so they worked together helping each other, this was faster and better and they accomplished a lot.

In March, 1956, Ray got a saw mill to come in and saw the lumber and on July 17, 1958, a planer came in to plane it. Then, we piled it to dry and use soon.

We were unfortunate, also, in those earlier years getting quite a lot of hail here. From 1952 to 1956, we were almost completely hailed out 100% for those five years in a row. This necessitated Ray to seek work elsewhere for cash. So in 1955, he got on as a construction worker in various places for private buildings. A new wing at Deerholm in Red Deer and so on. Then he took on the job of construction foreman for the Sylvan Lake school in 1958. Also, the construction foreman for the Mormon Church in Red Deer better known as the Latter Day Saints. It was finished in September, 1960. Ray worked eleven months on that building. Next to the Hudson Bay store building for a couple of months but due to health reasons had to give that up for awhile and could not stay with it to the finish, August 1961. Then later that same year to Building Inspector for the City of Red Deer in the fall of 1961 as he was now well acquainted with all aspects of good construction. We then bought a house in Red Deer and moved in on December 1st, 1961. The two younger children, Darleen and Dorian, transferred to Eastview school in the city. However, none of us were happy living in the city so we moved back to the farm on May 1, 1963. Ray gave up that job and we began building our new house, the basement had been excavated the previous year.

Before I go any further, I would like to mention that I, too, decided I would try and get work if I could, just enough to help see us through the winter and help over Christmas as we had lost our crop and garden to a very bad hail storm for the fifth time in a row, so we were in need of extra cash. This was the fall of 1957. I was surprised as I applied for work at Eatons to get on right away. Well, things went so well at home with all the children doing their share after school and Saturdays that I was able to stay on further. I was very reluctant to go at first as our two youngest, Darleen and Dorian, were just starting Grade Three. But with good planning and the children so helpful, I stayed on ten years at Eatons. Which did help us a lot to see us through those difficult times. I finished working at Eatons the end of 1967.

I'll never forget the time the cattle liner that Ray ordered to come in and haul out our marketable cattle

one fall to pay our bills and we knew we wouldn't get even five cents of that load. I watched at the window in tears knowing how hard it was for Ray, too, out there. This was about 1955. However, we carried on with the farm work for sometime and both of us working. Gradually we gained and got clear and ahead. Then, I remember the day the cattle liner came and hauled away a large load and we could smile and say, "This time it's all ours." A great feeling. Oh, the joys and tears of farming. But we made it. A lot of credit and thanks to our children.

In the meantime, we were busy building our new house. We got an experienced man to supervise the laying of the cement blocks for the basement. Then my brother Reg. from British Columbia came to help us for one week to erect the walls and roof rafters. From then on it was mostly a family affair. Ray and Dorian worked early and late as Dorian was still in school. So it took a long time. Finally, in December, 1964, the new Kirks Furnace was installed and it was warm. We all helped with the inside work and finally on November 3, 1965, we were able to move in. There was still much work to be done inside, but it was warm and we were thankful to be in. We managed it pretty well ourselves. One of the big tasks was the kitchen cupboards which Ray built and I did the finishing of them myself. A job I would not care to do more than once in a lifetime. But we have been well pleased with our efforts and are very comfortable.

Soon we said farewell to the old house and tore part of it down, while one part still serves as a granary. The old barn built by the previous owners in 1926 is also partly torn down and the lumber part of it now adorns the interior walls of two very fashionable rumpus rooms in two separate homes in the Sunnysbrook area of Red Deer. My, how the fads change in today's living. So many changes took place through the years as they do to all folks and places.

I would like to mention some of the highlights I remember in our close area here as follows:

In March, 1951, we had one of the worst blizzards in the Red Deer area. It began on March 15th and lasted till the 18th. It was 45 below zero. On the 19th, Ray and Mr. Wiley took some supplies to one of the neighbours, as some folks were away in Edmonton and couldn't get home because of the storm and heavy snow. Namely Tom Percival, Joe and Olive Duval and possibly others. The Sorenson bus going west also became stranded in the snow banks near Duvals place where about 21 people stayed till the storm was over. Yvonne Duval was there looking after things and fed all those people during that time, which was approximately three days or so before they were able to get out. Also, when the storm was over, Ray and Donny McGilvary from the corner store

hitched up their St. Bernard dog to a sled and took off for Red Deer for supplies straight across over the snow drifts, over fences and post which could not be seen, nor could you see where the road was. That was some storm.

The Sylvan Lake highway was just a gravel road when we came. In 1952, it was upgraded, widened and paved. The paving was done in the summer of 1953, I believe. Now it is a very busy highway to the west country and very noisy with so much heavy traffic night and day.

In the spring of 1952, we had a flood at our place. The water coming down out of the higher areas could not get away fast enough through the small culvert under the highway so it flooded our backyard, into the barn and chicken house. It took some convincing to have the culvert changed by the highway department but they did and we haven't had any more trouble since.

In July, 1949, the Ridge fire that got away caused a lot of excitement. Mr. Brackney had set a brush pile on fire and it got out of control when the wind changed. It spread all along our ridge burning furiously the tall trees and brush. People came from all around to help fight that fire. Ray, Joe Lewis, and Harold Brackney patrolled all night to keep it from spreading. It left a charred ruin in its path.

On October 2, 1956, Frank Mitchell's barn and two granaries full of newly threshed grain were destroyed by fire. Here, once again, neighbours went to the rescue and saved the house.

In April, 1960, another bad fire was when Mr. Wm. Woof went to burn old dead grass when the wind shifted and it went out of control and burned his barn and a tractor. The fire department came out so it was a costly fire.

In December, 1952, the Midway Store here on the corner burned to the ground. It was a terrible sight to see and very frightening being so close to our buildings and trees. We were afraid of sparks flying across to our place. The store was re-built in January and February, 1953. Mostly, too, with volunteer help from the neighbours and town folk as well as donated materials.

We got Calgary Power in our area and into our place in July, 1950.

Sam Davidsons were one of the first families to have a T.V. installed in 1958.

In April of that year, we watched Carol with some friends doing a skit of some kind on the T.V. We thought it was quite something.

We got the Gas into our place in September, 1979, though some other people had it for several years.

Our social life wasn't forgotten either so it wasn't all work and no play. I was a member of the Poplar

Ridge Womens Institute for nearly 20 years. It was always nice to go to meetings, expecting to learn new things and our social hour was always enjoyed with fun things like various contests, sing songs, and visiting with the ladies over lunch. It was a sad day when our Club folded due to lack of members.

We had our good old fashioned Christmas concerts which we were all usually involved in one way or another. These were enjoyed so much.

We attended First Baptist Church in Red Deer when we could and the children went to summer church camps some years.

We had many wedding anniversaries celebrated at the school as well as showers for new brides, but mostly these showers were held in someones home. The games and contests were always fun and much enjoyed, being mostly of a comical nature, which no longer is being done in that style these days.

We had house parties also for special birthdays with singing and piano playing. Our neighbour, Wealtha Hannecart delighted us so many, many times with her talented touch on the piano and the accordion. Later on, sometimes Dorian would join in on his accordion and we'd all sing the good old tunes of the day that always set the stage for many a happy time.

There were 4-H activities also to which the children participated in, especially Barbara who was keen in that work, winning the awards put up by "Singers Machine Co." "The T. Eaton Co.", "Alberta Wheat Pool", and the "W.I.", and coming away with some nice prizes.

In June, 1959, Carol enjoyed a stint in running for Rocky Stampede Queen. It was fun. She came in third but was a happy little contestant. The young people in the community got together and decorated a car beautifully with Carol's name across it done in flowers. It took first prize in the Rocky Mt. House Stampede parade so they were all happy.

Ray was usually involved in all the community activities such as the school board, the Calgary Power Co. meetings, the rural telephone, F.U.A. and various "bees" that came up from time to time. The building "Bee" at the corner store, a wood sawing "Bee" for Neilsons and so on.

All the children were active in the Red Deer Fair and entered many classes such as grains, grasses, flowers and garden stuff. The girls and I were regular entrants in the sewing and baking classes for a few years coming away with many prizes in bread baking, donuts, and the like. I also took a first prize on a Sun Bonnet quilt, I made and other sewing and knitting. One time Carol made a pair of slippers out of two old plastic purses. I believe they were a red one and a black one. She lined the slippers with a red

plaid inside. They were so authentic and cute that the Advocate even wrote an article about them in the paper. We thought it was real creative on her part, age about 10 or 11 years.

I remember one winter night it was clear and cold out, 30 below zero and a full bright moon. It was January 14, 1954. But Ray got our "Babe" horse out and hitched her to the stoneboat with hay bales to sit on. We picked up Molly Davidson, Charlotte and John and away we went to Mr. and Mrs. John Warrens new house warming party. We had such fun and was worth going out in the cold for. There was a full house of visitors too, cold or not.

Barbara graduated from Grade 12 in 1958 and took a year of Education at the University of Edmonton and began teaching in Elnora school in 1959. After one year there she accepted a school in Sylvan Lake and taught there for six years having taken a year off to spend at the University of British Columbia. The fall of 1966, she transferred to a Lethbridge school and taught there for one year. There she met and later married Paul Sephton. They moved to Edmonton and have one son, Leslie. In the meantime each summer Barbara took on extra studies at the University in Edmonton, some night classes also and got her degree in Bachelor of Education. She still teaches.

Carol graduated as a secretary in 1961 and worked several years in Red Deer. She is married to Bob Cunningham and they have two sons, Timothy and Kelly. They live in Calgary. She also took a dress design course while working and has become a very talented seamstress having designed and sewn many, many wedding outfits for the entire wedding party besides the brides outfits; also, decorating the wedding cakes which has become rather a speciality with Carol.

Darleen graduated as a Dietary Technician in June, 1971. She married Allan Nielsen. They have two children: Jacquelyn and Jeffrey. Allan has his own survey business. They live in Red Deer. She keeps busy with the childrens' activities. Jacquelyn is taking violin lessons, figure skating and both children are spending any spare time swimming.

Dorian graduated in 1969 and was interested in various types of work including welding and auto-body work. He spent a few months at Pine Point working for the N.W.T. Cominco Co., a lead and zinc plant but decided the north county wasn't for him so came back again and went into the transport business for the Gow Transport Co. in Red Deer.

Our life was very sadly interrupted in July of 1971 while Dorian was on a sight seeing trip to the west country in the mountains that he loved so much. While enroute home, he stopped to investigate a

beauty spot near Windy Point when he became lost in the mountains and lost his life there. It was a tragic blow to us all and has marred our lives forever.

As of spring, 1979, the scenery has changed. Ray is realizing one of his old dreams come true. He always thought how it might be one day to see a group of houses up on our "hilltop". Well, things are progressing quite well. The roads have been put in and some five new homes built in Phase I and the people are living in them now. The power and gas are in. Also, the telephone so the people are comfortable. On the drawing board are plans for many more new homes on our lovely hilltop on Phase 2.

No longer have we the berries of earlier years, gone are many good things.

The community is growing in leaps and bounds. Ray continues to work in Real Estate in Red Deer that he has been in for quite a few years. Our cropland is rented out and we no longer keep any livestock.

Our old Poplar Ridge school has been moved away in Spring of 1978 and turned into a residence north of Sylvan Lake. In its place a fine new community centre has been built and many activities take place there of a different variety now. I am glad to be at home enjoying my many various hobbies and enjoy visits from the children, grandchildren and friends.

I am glad we made our home in the Poplar Ridge district. It has been a good place to live and raise our family.

Harry V. Binning

Harry Binning was born at Richdale, south of Coronation, the fourth son of Ernest and Rosa Binning, moved to a farm ten miles north of Coronation where he grew up, went to school and worked on the farm for the neighbors during the summertime. During the hungry years the Binning Bros. supplied the music for local functions.

Harry's first full time job after leaving school was to work for a farmer during the winter time of 1934 for his board just to be sure of having a job the next summer for \$15.00 a month.

Harry farmed on his own for four years, north of Coronation, where he met Hazel Clampitt. They were married in 1942 and moved to Poplar Ridge, Red Deer, in 1945.

Hazel was born in Castor, the fourth daughter of Mr. and Mrs. G. Clampitt of Alliance. They lived at Alliance until her father's death in 1929. Then the family moved to Gadsby, then to Red Willow and later to Stettler where she completed high school. She also has one brother, Tom Clampitt, and one step-brother, Ken Pfeiffer of the House of Music,

Stettler. Her step-father, John Pfeiffer, died in 1967, also one sister, Mary, Mrs. Paul Petersen, Stettler, died of cancer in 1956. Her other two sisters are in B.C. Mrs. Art Mallet, Burnaby, and Mrs. Elsie Strader of Surrey.

After completing Normal School in Calgary, Hazel taught school for five years in the East Country before moving to the farm in Poplar Ridge, Red Deer. Her mother is presently living in "Dr. Kennedy Auxiliary Hospital" in Stettler.

Harry and Hazel Binning moved to "Poplar Ridge", Red Deer in November, 1945. They bought what was known as the Edgington place, S.W. 35-38-28 W4th, owned at that time by Clarence and Edna Anderson.

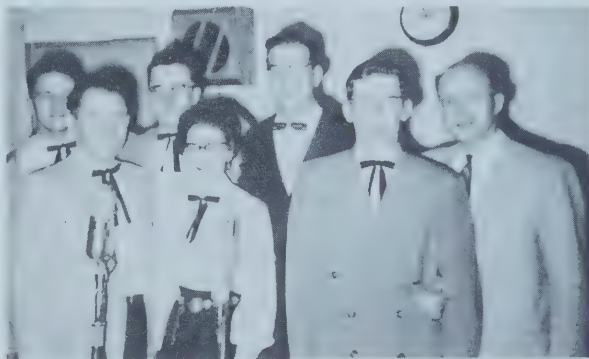
It was largely through the kindness and generosity of Walter and Mary Hart that we were able to get established and start a new life for ourselves.

Soon after we moved in we were given a welcome party and became members of Poplar Ridge Sports Club with which we had many happy times, ball games, dances and picnic trip to Pine Lake courtesy of a very good friend and neighbor, Mrs. Bill Hazlett.

Our weekly card parties with the Wards, Ramsays and Harts hold many fond memories. I can remember how Merle and Evelyn Ramsay helped us with a swarm of honey bees that lit in our back yard. Several gallons of honey were the result of that experience.

It was not long after that, Harry's musical talents were brought to light and he began playing in various dance bands in the country. The first steady job as a drummer was with Longacres band. From there on it went to being associated with the summertime dance bands at Sylvan Lake for several years, playing every night during the summer season.

That prompted Harry to start his own band in 1950 and has had his own band ever since. The best known band names he used were "Rangelanders", "Hy-Hats", and now "Country Wind."



Some members of the Central Alberta Barn Dance over CKRD.



Harry V. Binning farmstead at Poplar Ridge.

It was largely due to the many hours of promotion and advertizing put in by Hazel that made the venture the success that it became.

Due to the ever increasing demand for the orchestra and the extra work involved it became necessary to have a telephone so we had to move into Red Deer. As the orchestra grew and gained in popularity it had grown into a radio show over CKRD once a week known as "Central Alberta Barn Dance." This show lasted for five years. When CKRD-TV started we did a half hour T.V. Show for "Stramitt Corp." of Innisfail.

As if this was not enough playing for dances six nights a week, Harry also farmed five quarters of land besides, without any extra outside help.

In November, 1957, we bought a new house in Red Deer and left the farm, the house we still live in today. We still miss the old friends we made around Poplar Ridge.

We quite often drive by the little farmstead that we called home for 15 years. It holds many fond memories for us and our associations with our neighbors which were among the finest and friendliest people in the world and always ready to lend a helping hand whenever needed.

Richard Bjur

Richard, a Seismic Drill contractor, bought the N.W. of 4-39-28-W4 from Ken Phanmuller in 1977.

As there was no house, he built a new one and also a large quonset on the property. Their family — a boy, Danny, and a girl, Joanne, moved in and attended River Glen School.

They lived there only a short time then moved into Red Deer.

The building site, a 90 acre parcel, was subdivided and sold to Ron Miller.

The remaining land, they still own and Richard does his own farming.

Mr. and Mrs. Alec Bone

Mr. and Mrs. Alec Bone and four daughters came to the high banks of the Saskatchewan River, across from Edmonton, near the little settlement of Strathcona in 1898 and stayed there until 1900, then came to Poplar Ridge district.

They bought the N.E. ¼-3-39-28-W4 from the C.P.R. for \$10 an acre.

The Bones came from Quebec. Mr. Bone was of Irish and Welsh descent. He was a bridge builder and worked away from home a lot of the time, leaving Mrs. Bone and daughters to care for the farm. In later years, he ran the pump house for the C.P.R. in Red Deer until his retirement in about 1926.

Evelyn Bone, a daughter, related to us a few years ago what she remembers of the life of the family. She tells that any trail of which they could get through the dense bush was called a road by those early settlers. They all carried axes and if a way could not be found they would cut one through the trees. All roads were full of stumps and mud holes.

A two room house was built for a family of six. They occupied it for several years before a large white house was built. It still is standing.

Mr. Bone was also a carpenter and did alot of it around the country.

On account of poor roads it was hard to get to the village of Red Deer for mail and supplies. Wages were low and life was pretty rugged and many were the hardships suffered.

In about 1904 a school house was built where the Poplar Ridge Community Centre now stands, an organ was bought, and Baptist Church service was held, no dances were allowed, many wonderful concerts were held.

Mrs. Bone was a wonderful gardener. It was several years before a garden could be grown but when she succeeded, people came from far and near to see it.

There was plenty of wild life — bears, wolves, deer, lynx, and bob cats. It was easy to get lost in the bush when going to visit a neighbor, they were so far apart.

Mr. and Mrs. Bone were very active in all community affairs. They were anxious to see the district go ahead.

Mrs. Bone passed away in 1926 and Mr. Bone in 1938, both are buried in the Red Deer Cemetery.

The four daughters names were: Wilamina (who was a gifted musician) Christine, Theolinder (who died at age 13), and Evelyn. They were all talented.

Harold and Alice Brackney

The appealing Parkland area for mixed farming enticed Harold and Alice Brackney to the Poplar Ridge area to the original homestead of Bill Hunt, S ½ 33-38-28 W4.

Requiring assistance under the Department of Veteran's Affairs, we moved to the hill side home farm from Hanna where Harold returned to employment with the C.N.R. after serving with the Provost Corps in the Canadian Army 1942-1945. Harold grew up mainly in the Mirror District, schooling and working on his parents and neighbouring farms of the late Depression years. Alice, however, was a Calgary girl, having obtained schooling and subsequent Graduation as a Nurse from the Calgary General Hospital and joined the "Learn farming as you go" league of farm wives in the area. It is fortunate that the Poplar Ridge W. I. was a popular chapter of the Women's Institute, for with their various programs and speakers — a valuable source of information re: gardening, poultry raising and numerous farm projects was available for the asking. However, the various interpretations of these ventures along with Mother Nature herself proved interesting to say the least. It was never pointed out that turkey poultz didn't tolerate water too well and would just as soon set under a rainspout and drown rather than move over a foot to dry protection.

Then there was the turkey gobbler of the brood that grew weight wise and wouldn't roost in the Hen-turkey barn — an open air perch on top of the grain wagon on the crest of the hill was a much superior perch — till Mr. Coyote scared him off same and dragged him to his end across the grain field southwest of the house.

Neighbours, Joe and Dode Lowis and the Ray Bertrams worked together in harvesting operations, cutting trees for lumber and breaking new land. Neighbours assisted at run-away fires during land clearing, wood-cutting bees, etc., cutting lines out for the power lines.

In 1951, the Blizzard that closed the Sylvan Lake Highway some four days, brought neighbours to each other's aid including MacGillivray's St. Bernard dog who mused to Red Deer for supplies. He had previously been taught to pull their toboggan for fun trips.

Our two children: Redvers James and Kathleen Estilla were born while we still lived on the farm. We joined with many parents concerned with bussing young school children to town. Eventually the school was closed and became, in time, the Community Centre.

Holidays or time off the farm consisted of Community gatherings, berry picking trips and the odd

fishing jaunt to Gull Lake, especially in the spring when the ice moved off from the shore — the catches of pike proved a welcome break.

On leaving the farm, Harold was employed as Pasteurizer till Silverwoods Dairy closed. He was then Commissionaire at C.F.B. Penhold for years before retiring.

After reinstating Registration as a Nurse, Alice worked sixteen years at the Red Deer Nursing Home before retiring.

Redvers James attended Lindsay Thurber High School then graduated as an Aero Technician from S.A.I.T., Calgary. He was transferred to Richmond, B.C., from Edmonton after employment with the Pacific Western Airlines for some three years. A cross country ski and canoe and kayak enthusiast, he also assisted "Canoe Alberta" set up their canoe routes for future Albertans to enjoy. He drowned in a swimming accident near Lyton, B.C., in August, 1980.

Kathleen graduated with a Bachelor of Education degree from the University of Calgary. Donald James Brackney and Kathleen were married and live in Calgary with their two month old son, Steven James Redvers Brackney.

by Alice Brackney



Harold and Alice Brackney.

Beth and Bill Boyce

Yvonne Elizabeth (Beth) was born March 10, 1945, and is the youngest daughter of Hal and Aillie Thompson.

My first five years of school were attended at Poplar Ridge where Mr. Davidson was my teacher. From Grade Six to Grade Nine, I attended River Glen.

My high school years were spent attending Composite High School. It was here where I met my future husband, Bill Boyce.

I continued my education at Alberta College where I received my secretarial degree.

Bill and I were married June 5, 1965, and now delight in our three sons:

Glenn William born April 22, 1968.

Callan Reginald born June 13, 1970.

Daniel John born October 22, 1972.

We now reside in Calgary where Bill is employed with the Canadian Grain Commission and my employer is Shelby Drilling Ltd.

Brownrigg Family

by Ethel Violet Mawson

Fred and Emma Brownrigg, nee Orr, came from Grande Ligne and Barrington, Quebec, in 1899. Father's family were English and Mother's were Irish. They were married in 1899. I, Ethel Violet, was their only child. Dad was an engineer on the C.P.R. out of Quebec.

Mother and Father, along with Grandparents, Thomas and Jane Brownrigg and two of father's sisters came west by C.P.R. train and freightcar. Ed Marten came with my Dad in the box car with the livestock and furniture. He married my Dad's sister, Violet, and lived on the quarter next to us.

Some of Grandmother's family, The Harts, were already in the Red Deer area so this was the reason our family came to file on the NE ¼ of 2-39-28-W4. Thomas and Jane Brownrigg filed on SW ¼ 12-39-28-W4 and Dad's only brother, Henry, homesteaded on the SE ¼ of 12-39-28-W4.

The first dwelling was a log one built by my Dad in 1900. There were 20 acres broken. Field work was done with horses using a walking plow, harrows and a seeder.

Jack Tooley, a young Englishman was our hired man for years. He was in the 1914-1918 War and was married soon after he returned from overseas.

We didn't have a car until 1916. Harry Strong had the first telephone.

In 1908, I started school in Poplar Ridge walking four miles through dense bush. Miss Tingley, Miss Huber and Miss Wilson were my teachers.

My parent's family were Baptists and a minister from Red Deer came out for Sunday afternoon Services. George Norris was the Sunday School teacher.

The school concerts were the highlights of the season. School picnics were held at Sylvan Lake. Fishing for Pike in the creek that ran into Sylvan Lake was another treat. It was loaded with fish in those days.

I remember my mother telling of one Indian going by when she was alone. She was terrified as in the East they told her that Indians were "Wild in the West" — however, he didn't come near the house.

The Harry Strongs lived across the road. They too were from the same part of the East as my family. Mrs. Strong was wonderful to help anyone who was sick.

My Grandfather Brownrigg died in 1907 leaving my Grandmother and Aunt alone so they rented their quarter to Susie and George Rogers. Susie was my Dad's first cousin. His mother was a Hart and Henry and Fred Hart were first cousins. Andrew Neilson bought Henry Brownrigg's place when they left for B.C.

My Grandmother, Jane Brownrigg, died in her 91 year in Creston, B.C.

Dad was a sawyer in a small lumber mill. For years he walked four miles back and forth everyday for a little over a dollar a day. When we sold the farm to George Ward in 1918, he worked as a mechanic for Fred Lund in Red Deer. We moved to Creston in 1920. Both my parents passed away in Creston.

We had Fishers for neighbours. Ray, their only son died in the First World War, also Ray East and George Atkins.

Neighbours across the road, it was only a trail then, were Austins, Hunts, who later moved to Creston. Mrs. Hunt was a woman that everyone went to see. She was a pleasant woman.

Then there were Archibalds, Holbrooks, Ed Bowens, C. Staples and the Bone family, also, Bill and Levi Atkins.

All my Dad's family lived in Cross Roads. His mother's brother was William Hart, father of Fred and Henry.

We had a wonderful family living for some time on my Grandparent's place by the name of Gulley-more. Jim and Janet Murphy bought the place but moved out here some time later. Janet was Fred Hart's daughter.

My father and Henry Hart, who owned a threshing machine; did all the threshing around the district. My Dad ran the engine and Henry was separator man. It was quite a thing those days for the housewife getting ready for threshers — cooking for days.

I forgot to mention the Soderman family of four

girls. Mrs. Soderman was my first music teacher. I went to her place every week by horseback and paid 25¢ a lesson. All the family were musical. Hilda, one daughter, taught school for many years in Red Deer.

Joe Peets sold his farm to Sodermans. We always went blueberry picking on their place. Very delicious fruit which we canned and made into Jelly.

I am a lover of flowers and there were beautiful wild flowers everywhere, crocuses, yellow Lady Slippers, Blue Bells, Tiger Lillies and in the swamp areas, Marsh Marigolds which we called Cow Slips.



John Buga Sr., Mr. McEachen.

Buga, John Sr. and Eszter

by John A. Buga

My father, John Buga, was born in Hungary in 1879. He came to Lethbridge in 1908, where he worked in the Galt Coal Mine No. 6 until 1927. In the spring of 1927, we, my dad, his wife Eszter, and myself, moved to the Poplar Ridge District, having purchased the NE 33-38-28-4 farm from the Atkins family. After we arrived on the farm and settled in, our first task was to repair the log barns, the pig pen, and the chicken house so that we could put the animals in a safe place for the night. Since only 40 acres of the land was tilled, we had to go into mixed

farming; milking cows, raising pigs and chickens. Milking by hand, separating the cream for sale, making butter for the family and for sale, and feeding the skim milk to the young pigs was a daily ritual. The milk cows were depended upon for a steady income. We farmed with horses for many years. As we cleared more land, the acreage increased and we were able to sell grain so our income increased over the years.

My parents remained on the Poplar Ridge farm until 1948. They sold the farm to Mr. Ray Bertram, who still resides there. A sale was held on the stock, implements and tools. After the sale, John and Eszter moved back to Lethbridge to live their remaining years among old friends. My father passed away in 1960, and mother in 1970. They are buried in the family plot in the Mountain View Cemetery in Lethbridge.

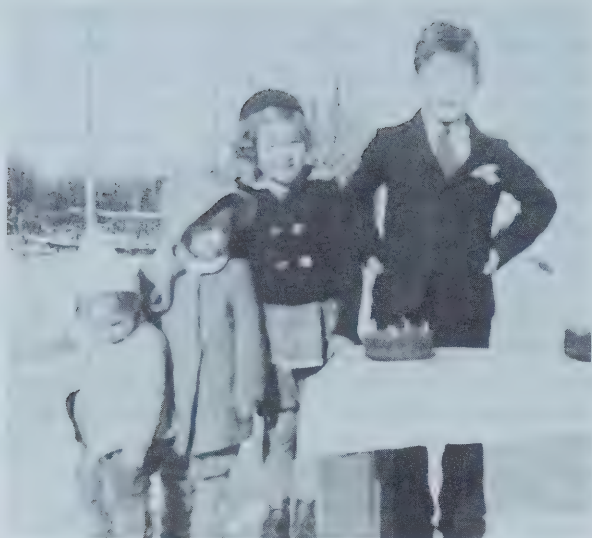
Buga, John A. and Elizabeth

by John A. Buga

We were married in Red Deer at the Knox Presbyterian Church in 1934. My wife is the former Elizabeth Weil.



John and Elizabeth Buga on their wedding day.



Margaret, Rosemary, Sylvia, William Buga.

In 1936, I built a two room house on the southeast corner of the farm (NE 33-38-28-4) near the old Poplar Ridge School. While residing in Poplar Ridge, I enlisted in the Army in 1941. My work experiences were varied during our years in Poplar Ridge. They included farming, mining and railroad work. All of our children were born during our stay in the district. Willie, Sylvia, Rosemary and Margaret. Willie and Sylvia attended school at Poplar Ridge.

In 1945, after purchasing a home in Sylvan Lake and selling the house in Poplar Ridge, we moved to Sylvan Lake and resided there until 1968. In 1968, we moved to Red Deer. We are now both retired. Willie, our eldest, resides in Edmonton with his wife Alice and four children, Bernadette, Phillip, Eugenia and Antonette. Sylvia is currently employed with Dow Chemical of Canada and resides in Red Deer. Rosemary, a librarian, lives in Regina, Saskatchewan. Margaret is married to Charles Herder and lives in the Balmoral District with their two daughters Carla and Lesley.

John and Sue Charles

John and Sue Charles are newcomers to the area and built on Wiley's land in June, 1979.

John was born in Red Deer and raised in Leslieville, where his father, the late Dr. Keith Charles, was the local veterinarian for many years. John met his wife, the former Sue McLaughlin, while taking his electrical apprenticeship in Orillia, Ontario. They were married there in 1967 and moved to Red Deer in 1969. John started working for Slim Cunningham Electric Ltd., his current employer, and

Sue worked for the Bank of Montreal, Main Branch, until the arrival of their first child.

They have two children: Kathy born in June, 1971, and Kevin, born in June, 1976.

Both John and Sue are active members of the Sylvan Lake and District Fish and Game Association and are deeply involved in preserving wildlife and the natural habitat. The Club has just completed the first of several pheasant pens on their land making use out of some of the wire from the fox pens built and operated by Marvin Wiley forty years ago. Brooks Rearing Station will be delivering 150 six week old chicks by the end of June. The name of this new area project is "Aspen Ring-Neck Pheasant Farm" and it is hoped that it will become a very successful rearing and release area.

The Chizmazia Family

by Irma Gyori

Having left Tét, Hungary, in April, 1927, Denis Chizmazia arrived in Raymond, Alberta, coming to a land with a better future. Being a skilled carpenter, work was not all that hard to obtain — Wages 15¢ to 25¢ per hour. He worked in Lethbridge on various jobs. The big one being the elevator that was all concrete (still in use today).

In November, 1927, he sent for his wife, Elizabeth, sons, Dennis and Louis, and daughter, Irma.

In spring of 1932, the folks had decided to move north away from the terrible prairie winds and alkali water that turned snow white when dumped on the ground.



Mr. and Mrs. Chizmazia, Irma and Tommy.

They purchased a farm in the Poplar Ridge district that was owned by a Mr. Strong, N.E. ¼ 34-38-28 W4. Sight unseen, we moved up to the farm. Our hearts sank to see an old dilapidated log house that was to be home (built in the early 1900's) and 140 acres of bush land. They set to work cleaning

up the house. There was paper hung over the logs in the upstairs and you could see the mice running behind the paper. My dad gave me a hammer and told me to get to work on them. It wasn't too long before they had a very nice comfortable warm home. Dad and the boys would brush the trees to make more land. I can still remember my mother making 10 pounds of butter to take to Eatons grocerteria for groceries, \$1.20 a weeks supply of necessities. Talk of hard times, my brothers wanted to do janitor work at school for 10¢ per day and somebody else did it for less. In 1937, a brother, Eddie, arrived to join our household. February of 1936, mother was midwife when Mary Malinic was born. Dr. Parsons from Red Deer came in a blizzard. Dad took the Doc and Mom by sleigh to the Malinic farmstead. All went well.

September, 1939, the war broke out. Brother Louis, wanting adventure, went to join up. He was shipped overseas June, 1940, to the European Theatre as a dispatch rider. He returned November, 1945. Dennis, joined in 1941 and went overseas shortly after. He was with the Calgary Tank Regiment.

In 1945, my folks sold out and moved to Red Deer. Dad was working at the Armories and Penhold Airport. Mother passed away May, 1948. Dad lived in Red Deer until his passing September, 1968.

Dennis, Janie and family live in Calgary. He is a Civil Servant with the Canadian Army.

Louis has a business of his own in Burnaby, B.C. where he lives with his wife, Bertha, and family.

Eddie, Vi, and family reside in Chilliwack, B.C., where he drives a tank truck for a Dairy Company.

Irma and Tom Gyori and family live west of Bentley on a dairy farm.

The John William Christian Family

The Christian family took possession of S½-1-39-28-W4, Friday, August 22nd, 1919, located in Poplar Ridge School District. The farm was purchased from Mr. J. T. Vance who then moved to the Kootenays in B.C. The farm, however, was known as the Fred Fisher farm and was possibly homesteaded by the Fishers. The hill on which the brick veneer buildings were erected was often referred to as the Fisher hill, and was one which in rainy weather proved to be a real challenge to the early cars to surmount. All the buildings on the place, the house, the two barns, and the large granary were constructed of culled bricks obtained for the Piper Brick Company in Red Deer, and was said to have been erected by Mrs. Fisher. Because very few bricks were whole bricks the job must have been difficult to say the least. But the buildings held up very well and Dad added onto these buildings as time went by but not with brick. The house was leveled by fire in Febru-



Mr. Christian, Edna, Flo Neal, George, Mrs. Christian. Notice the bricks.

ary, 1954, and the remainder of the buildings were dismantled when Mr. Edgar took over the farm.

Mr. "Will" Christian was born in Sheffield, England, 1885, and immigrated to Canada, June 8th, 1906. He hired out for the next three years to various farmers in Simcoe County, northwest of Toronto. This enabled him to gain much needed experience in farming practices as his previous employment in the old country was that of grocery clerk. At the end of this three year proving period he, along with Mr. George Diggins, came out west on a harvest excursion, 1909. When the harvest was completed, they took up adjacent homesteads in what later became known as the Bingley District. Dad's log house was built first and next spring that of his partner, George Diggins, ready for the arrival of George's family that fall. On November 15, 1910, Dad got the area officially named and established the Post Office of Bingley in his new log house. Later he donated a small parcel of land in the northeast corner of his quarter and a schoolhouse was constructed.

Miss Emily G. Neal was born in Derby, England, 1889, and worked in a textile factory prior to coming out to Canada to become the bride of Will Christian. They were married in the Red Deer Presbyterian manse by the late Rev. W. G. Brown, June 8, 1911, and went directly to their Bingley homestead, a distance of about 50 miles. In those days it took a week to make this journey by oxen and wagon. One can imagine what an adventure and drastic change in the mode of travel it must have been for her, however, this was to be the forerunner of several more pioneering experiences with oxen before many more months elapsed, one involved a runaway and the other a river crossing.

As a result of the aforementioned marriage I arrived on the scene, and since that date happened to

be the same as the birthdate of George Diggins, I was given the name of George and my first name was that of my father. My sister, Edna, was born about twenty-one months later. Dad enlisted with the 187th Infantry Battalion, June 8th, 1916, in Red Deer leaving Mother to take care of the farm, the Post Office, and wee youngsters. In 1918 a serious fire destroyed the home and all its contents except for a few Postal effects. It was an extremely cold winter's day and Mother and her two youngsters had to trudge their way to the neighbors about a mile away and Edna to this days bears a slight scar on her face where it was frost bitten. We stayed with various people for a time including the Strongs of Poplar Ridge and eventually rented a house (which still stands) in North Red Deer and belonged to Mrs. Reed, also of Poplar Ridge. It seems as though we should naturally come to live in Poplar Ridge. Actually, part of our new farm and part of the Storn's were adjacent to each other though separated by the Sylvan Lake road. So it was that on discharge from the Canadian Expeditionary Force Dad sold his homestead farm and with help from the Soldiers Settlement Board settled on the Fred Fisher farm. His new farm being situated mid-way between Sylvan Lake and Red Deer and was often a stop over place for many of Bingley's oldtimers on their way to Red Deer or returning.

While there was no record made of how many acres were under cultivation when Dad took over the farm, my guess would be 65 acres at the very most. I can recall him saying that the field on the west quarter had 67 curves and corners, however, by the time he left he had it whittled down to a mere six or seven and in fact was connected to a large field on the east quarter.

At one time Dad must have had 13 or 14 horses including my pony. He used them to pull the varied implements on the farm and also to provide the means of transportation about the country. On the three bottom plow he used a team of seven horses, later this same plow was pulled by an $1\frac{1}{36}$ Hart Parr two cylinder steel rimmed tractor but with an added set of harrows behind the plow. This tractor was purchased from Martins of Blackfalds in the spring of 1928 and a number of horses were traded in part payment. Dad did quite a bit of breaking for neighbors that first year and later did custom grain grinding. A small grain thresher (a Red River Special) was purchased and a few years later a larger machine, and was one having a Carter disc grain cleaner on top for the removal of wild oats and other weed seeds. It wasn't until the purchase of a rubber tired tractor that horses ceased to put in the crop but up until that time I can remember Dad standing on top the seed drill box to avoid the dust, guiding his four horse team back

and forth across the field. He used to pride himself in making straight rows; though one thing with horses they soon learned to follow a line or if plowing, the previous furrow, something a tractor never could do or be depended on even when one wheel was in the furrow. With the arrival of combine machines horses were retired completely and also a way of life on the farm.

Our first crop was threshed by Mr. Gainow's steam engine and hand fed separator. The next year or so it was Mr. H. Veal's outfit and then the outfits of Walter Hart and then Sam Blakley that came to thresh our crops before we had our own machine. Threshing time was a time of long hours — usually four a.m. or so and the outfit would be going by six. Between those two hours the men with the horses had to be sure their teams were fed and watered and then harnessed before taking on breakfast and usually were out in the field by six. The separator and engine men had to get the machine serviced and possibly reset the separator if the wind had changed direction over night and to put on the heavy drive belt to be ready to start the days operation. Any repairs to the belts or machine maintenance were usually done after supper. A lunch was brought out in mid mornings and afternoons, supper was about seven, after the horses had been tended to.

Threshing time was an anxious time as so much depended upon good weather. On looking over Dad's records, I noticed that more than once that they shook snow off the stooks in order to complete the threshing or hope to. Any crops threshed in the spring were sure losers, first to the ravages of mice and then, secondly, the grade of the grain. But threshing time was a social event in sorts, where neighbors got together to do a common job and my what meals we shared too, for it seemed as though the ladies tried to outdo the others in the meals they prepared. Threshing time too was a time for the odd pranks one played on the other, like tying a bundle to the side of the rack and to stand off watching the victim struggle with this unyielding bundle until he realized the problem. He would retaliate by accidentally dropping a bundle on the head of the one he supposed had tied the bundle in the first place. Sad to say, I got bombed quite a number of times and still maintain I was innocent most the time but I suppose that made it all the more amusing to the original perpetrator. One day I remember looking up from the tractor (for I had been patting the neighbors dog) to see Dad frantically waving his arms motioning me to stop the tractor and just a few moments later to see bits of metal go sailing out the straw blower onto the straw pile. He had been oiling the feeder and somehow the long spout of the oil can got locked into the chain and the can was

pulled out of Dad's hand and started its perilous journey through the machine. The chain and rattle feeder was supposed to be set so that a person could stop the feeder but it didn't that day. One day we were moving from the Woof farm and I had the steelrimmed tractor pulling the separator down the road. It was a bumpy ride at best and I got on the flats just before the Lowis farm, I looked back to see how the machine was doing or taking the trip only to discover, to my chagrin, that the separator was being left behind, in fact was at that moment about three or four hundred yards away. You may be sure I wasted no time getting back to the separator and hooking onto it, making sure after that that the draw pin did not work out again. A few years earlier Dad was moving the machine home in the dark and near the Dunc McBlane farm the rear end of the separator went through the culvert and stayed there but the front wheels and the tractor continued on. I believe that Ernie Mosley was riding on the separator, lantern in hand. That unfortunate occurrence held up the threshing for a short time. When Dad got his new rubber tired tractor, he found it did not have quite enough power on the belt to handle the job so he teamed up with Norman McLeod and Sons and used their John Deere. The last year of its operation in 1945 saw John McLeod and I as engineer and thresher men.

One of the funny events occurring on the farm (though you probably wouldn't have gotten Dad to agree) was one spring when Dad was training one of his young horses to work as a team with three other horses. He was harrowing a field next to where I was plowing with the tractor and had stopped the team, all that is except the new horse who somehow got over the traces and edged around until he was facing the other horses. In his efforts to right the situation Dad finally ended up with old Dan nearly sitting on the cart that Dad had been riding. Since the cart was just a light flimsy thing, the wheels buckled, and even though Dad tried to straighten them out the cart as it went down the field made a wavy track.

Another time Dad was again harrowing but had stopped to talk with Walter Hart over the fence. A flock of blackbirds flew over and the horses mistaking the clicking sound of the birds for a signal to move and because there was no restraining hand on the reins, they simply took off for home on the gallop leaving sections of harrows along their dusty path of flight.

All the experiences with horses did not necessarily befall Dad for on one occasion I was discing with a team of four "royal" horses, namely: White Queen, Red Queen, Black Queen and King. It was a windy day and the breaking was rough. Just at the moment when one side of the disc was about to hit a

particularly rough sod a flock of prairie chickens flew up right beside the horses. I was pitched forward in front of the disc as the horses bolted. Somehow, the heel of my boot took the pressure off that side of the disc and lifted the section over me. Fortunately, it was not a tandem disc and other than receiving a rough fall and a bad scare I got off with no injuries; however, the horses didn't stop to see how I had fared but continued on their mad dash for the barns. The disc did a crazy sort of hop first one side would rise about a foot or more above the ground and would make a sort of furrow when it came back down while the other side would be up in the air. Finally the clevis broke and left the implement behind. There were other runaways too but space does not permit their recounting, but those related about probably occurred on other farms too.

Blasting powder was used quite a bit on our farm and in many ways. My Uncle Reg who had been a miner in England was quite adept in its special handling. I recall a huge rock some five or six foot across laying just below the surface of the ground and was a continual hazard for on more than one occasion Dad got some bad spills when the plow hit it, so they decided to remove it. They thought that if they could split the rock then it could be removed more readily — smaller piece at a time. They rolled six sticks of dynamite together and added the detonator and long fuse and set this atop the offending rock. They then placed large capping of damp clay over the charge. The fuse was lit and we moved off in a hurry several hundred yards away to await the explosion. When it did go I felt sure that it would rattle the windows of nearby houses, however, the desired results were achieved with the huge rock cracked into about four or five still huge pieces. Many a huge stump was split and earth removed from its roots by the use of powder. It was also used to deepen wells though usually electric detonators and long wires were used. Threshing time was not the only time that neighbors got together to do a heavy job. Dad usually got up about 20 cords of wood each winter and Mr. Finch would come in with his buzz saw and cut it up in foot long pieces. It usually required three men to lift the logs onto the table and one more to throw the sawn off blocks onto a pile. As the saw outfit moved from farm to farm the neighbors who has helped were in return helped by Dad or his hired man. The blocks of wood were usually split while still frozen and the split wood would then be stacked. I usually got that job each year as well as keeping the wood box in the house filled. The blocks that would not split were used in the heater, while the shorter blocks were used in the water heater in the stock water tank during the winter. Other tasks that neighbors helped each other

with was stacking green feed, butchering, and the odd barn raising bee.

Dad had beside his horses about ten head of cows and their progeny and kept quite a few pigs. Mother did more than her share of the milking and also looked after her chickens, though as Edna and I became older many chores were assigned to us. It seemed a wasted effort that most of the skimmed milk should be fed to the pigs and some to the chickens. One of our chores was to turn the cream separator making sure that we turned it just fast enough to have the bell ring occasionally. The cream was poured into long containers and was then lowered into the well by a ten foot rope to be kept cool until enough cream was on hand to be churned into butter or taken into the creamery in Red Deer.

We were often in demand to help with the first stage of making butter and that was to rotate the churn. The churn was a wooden barrel of perhaps 25 to 30 gallon capacity with a large tight fitting lid securely clamped on by two half round hoops with their ends anchored to the outside rim and folded over the lid to meet near the centre and were held there by a large wing nut. The barrel was so fitted that it could be rotated between a special stand and could be made to rotate by a hand operated lever augmented by a foot pedal as both were sometimes needed to get the churn moving. The idea of course was to rotate the churn just fast enough so that the cream would have a falling effect inside. If rotated too fast it would naturally gravitate to the outer portions of the churn due to centrifugal force.

The churn was filled to one-half or two-thirds capacity and a few drops of coloring added to the cream. Periodically one would have to stop turning the churn making sure the bung was higher than the rest of the churn and then to remove the bung to release the buildup of gas. Failure to do this would probably have the gas pressure build up and blow the bung out with a consequent mess of no mean proportions. One would rotate the churn waiting for the tell tale sign that butter was made by listening for the heavy thump of the lump of butter or looking for the glass window in the lid to clear. Then the buttermilk would be drained from the churn into a pail by taking the bung out again. Fresh buttermilk was a treat.

The churning was not the final process for next it was placed on a special V-shaped table. There were four or five inch sides to this table with the V end open and this end was lower than the rest of the table. There was also a long octagonal wooden roller, (about the thickness of a rolling pin) one end having a short metal rod protruding out the end was fitted into the V of the table. This roller with the far end smoothed out to form a handle was worked across the butter on

which salt had been sprinkled and the roller worked the salt into a mass of butter and at the same time worked the remaining butter milk out. A short paddle was used to bring the butter back into the centre to be rolled flat again. This process was repeated until no more milk oozed out and the salt was thoroughly worked into the mass of butter.

The next step of the process was for the butter to be worked into a wooden mold when full would then be pushed out onto a sheet of special paper. The paper would be wrapped around the molded butter and the ends folded up into place resulting in a one pound package which format is still used to sell butter or margarine off the grocer's shelf.

To say that was the end of the process would be erroneous for then there was the big task of cleaning up all the equipment used. When I think of all the work of cleaning and scalding the separator discs twice a day and all the rest of the cleanup job it seems little payment for their labours when about all they got for their finished product was a scant 15 cents a pound and even then had to be taken to town and possibly peddled to various customers. Not many farm people did do this and I do not remember how long mother slaved at this chore. I sincerely hope not for long.

Church services and Sunday School were held in the Poplar Ridge school house each Sunday afternoon. Mrs. Hannah Reed was the Sunday school supervisor. She used to call it the Ridge-Roads Sunday school combining the names of the two districts of Poplar Ridge and Crossroads, though people also attended who lived in Shady Nook. I still have a Bible which was presented to me for missionary work for the year 1924 by Mrs. Reed on behalf of the school. Mrs. Reed lived with her brother Ted Edgington and would walk the half mile up the dirt road (though sometimes she dubbed it "Mud Alley") to the Sylvan Lake road where Dad and family would meet her with a team of horses and democrat or bob sleigh depending on the season and then continue on to the school. Mrs. H. Kirkland was the organist though at times or odd intervals either Mother or Mrs. E. Finch would play the organ. The pastor in 1921 was Rev. Hassall from the Red Deer Baptist Church. His successor was Rev. Olsen and later by Rev. Jackson. The Nazarene Church later supplied the religious leadership. With improved roads and motor car in possession of most families the church services were discontinued. Also about that time Mrs. Reed and her brother moved into Red Deer, and the farm was taken over by a nephew, Dick Edgington, and his wife, Audrey.

There were many social events held in the old schoolhouse and later on in the Community Hall

which was erected in the winter of 1925/26. The school children always participated in the annual Christmas concert, but throughout the winter months there were other concerts including Halloween. The older folk would get together and put on a play and sometimes take it to other centres as well. One such play was "Aaron Slick from Punkin Crick", and was quite a hit with the crowd. I can only recall two of the players and they were Mrs. Bertha Doig and of course Dad. Many of the older girls of the district were quite talented in giving their recitations, songs, etc. Mrs. Evelyn Petersen and Dad quite often teamed up to sing for us as did Mr. and Mrs. Tooley, and who could ever forget Bill Smith and his many Cockney songs with his wife, Nelly, accompanying him on the organ. Fanny Burns was a real entertainer and I still recall one of her encore stories about a spinster who went into the woods one evening to pray for a husband, and as the dear lady finished her supplications a voice up above was heard to say "Whoo, Whoo." Whereupon the lady replied, "Dear Lord, any man will do." Never did Fanny think her simple story should so impress an eight or nine year old lad that he would recall it for the rest of his days. I even recall teaming up one evening with Dad to sing a song. I was dressed up as a flower girl with a tray of flowers in front of me. Dad would sing the verse and then I would come in to sing in a most pathetic voice, "Won't you buy my pretty flowers?" The next few days, for that effort, I got quite a ribbing from my fellow classmates and never again did I sing solo.

Often after these evening concerts there was a box social where the ladies put up a decorated box of goodies for the evening snack. The box would be auctioned off and she would share the contents with the highest bidder. One could never be sure just whose box was up for sale and if there was any suspicion a certain box was the school teacher's, that box would inevitably fetch the best price. Quite often too, various groups would get together to play an evening of cards, each family taking turns to host the party in their home. The most common game played was Five Hundred, but some times it would be one of the various games of whist. There would also be surprise parties to celebrate someones birthday or other valid excuse to hold a get-together.

The Poplar Ridge Community Hall and horse stable was built by district volunteer help during the winter of 1925/26. A board of local men was elected to control the operation of the hall, Ray De Pauw was a member of the board. The Hall then became the centre of concerts, dances, election campaign meetings, and other district affairs. The Christmas school concert was held that year (1925) in the new hall and that may have been its first public function. The

desks at the schoolhouse were fastened to long two by fours and did not lend themselves to accommodate such affairs as dancing, and they sometimes were broken in the attempt to stack them and the building just was not big enough to handle the turnouts to these events.

I started school in the fall of 1919 with Miss A. B. Anderson, the teacher. Her parents, brother and sisters lived on the farm to the east of us, the farm was later purchased by Norman MacLeod Sr. Miss Anderson resigned her position Easter week, March, 1922. The country school teachers usually had eight or nine grades to teach and when I started there were between 40 and 45 students. Mr. Gibson was the school inspector and seemed such a stern man and generally frightened most of us. He was not all that popular with the teachers either. Other inspectors were Mr. McLean and L. Thurber. For a time it seemed as though there was no one to finish the term, however, Miss Mary Harper came to teach the remainder of the term and continued on the next term as well. Just who came after that I am not certain but on the roster of school teachers was Miss Custance, Miss Pearl Mitchell, Miss Hilda Soderman, Miss Walts, Mr. Eber Crummy. Miss Soderman taught the 1925/26 term and Mr. Crummy used to ride out from Red Deer on horse back each day. I remember that as we older boys had to go over to Mr. Norris's place and get a bundle of oats for the horse's noon feeding. When Joan Finch, Edna and I went to Crossroads school to take grade ten, Miss Mabel Maxwell (later Mrs. Nash) was the teacher there. Other teachers who took over the teaching duties after I left included Miss Helen Neilson (who had been a former student at the school), Mr. Miller, Miss Audrey Schaefer, Miss Dora Bjelke, and Mr. Davidson. Dad took on the duties of Secretary-Treasurer, January 10th, 1920, and resigned approximately two years later. The replacement officer was Gerald Gilbert. George Norris, who lived very close to the school may have been the Janitor in those early twenties and who usually had the big wood burning furnace going before classes commenced. Miss Bjelke taught for four years and married Axel Johanson of Burnt Lake, 1934. Audrey Schaefer taught for two years and married George Braithwaite of Shady Nook.

Dad during his time on the farm had many hired hands, some who came directly from Europe through a government farm help plan. The first hired man on Dad's records was the son of the former owner's son, Gordon Vance. My uncle, Reg Neal, and his wife, Florence, arrived from England, Good Friday, April 2nd, 1920. Up until that time, Uncle had been a coal miner so now he was trying his hand at farming. The following spring a cabin was built for them and this is

where their son, George, was born and on Dad's birthday. November of that year Uncle took his family to Fort McLeod for the winter helping his father repair shoes. They came back next spring but in the fall of 1923 they moved into Red Deer where Uncle worked for the C.N.R. While living in the district the couple became well known and made many friends. Uncle was quite a good photographer as some of the accompanying photos were taken and processed by him. While living with us that first year, I recall that one morning about breakfast time someone spotted an animal running to the back of the barn and supposing that the animal was a coyote, Dad or Uncle grabbed the rifle and some ammo and went out after the critter. However, it turned out to be a dog. On their return to the house they discovered that they had left the remainder of the ammo on the relatively hot stove. Certainly an unlikely place to leave something like that.

Next spring, 12 April, 1924, Jim McNeil and family arrived from the Hebrides and lived in the cabin. They had a son who was about my own age. Quite a few families arrived in the district at about this time from the Hebrides. The MacLeods, McEacherns, John MacDonald and the MacDonells. The McNiels left us, 23 September, 1924.

One other man and wife came to work for Dad and to live in the cabin, coming from one of the Scandinavian countries and neither could talk much English and came to us thinking that possibly we could speak a little of their language since our name is common to their country, and their name was Olsen. He came over first, October, 1928, and then his wife arrived in February, 1929, and they departed about a month or so later.

George Stocks came to work for us, 1 April, '26, and he had been a policeman in Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) but he too did not stay long. Then G. R. "Dod" Sutherland, fresh from Scotland, commenced work and stayed to the end of harvest. Jack B. Moore started the following spring and came from Lowestoft, England, and finished working for Dad, 29 September, '28. Eventually, Jack bought the Alex McBlane farm in the district where he and his wife reside.

During the summer of 1927, Dad had a lot of breaking done and needed lots of help to clear the land. Jim Preece for one and on 24 July a distant relative, Arthur Siddals, his wife, Lily, and a small son, Arthur, came to work and again the cabin was occupied. Unfortunately, Arthur got his fingers badly frozen and decided to return to England. Since Mother had gone to visit in England, Lily had taken over the housekeeping duties and so she remained behind with her son. She left when mother returned

and went to work for Jim Hazlett. Sid Drake was also another name on the roster of summer employees.

Mr. McRoberts from east Red Deer came with his huge wheel tractor and broke up quite a chunk of land that summer. Later Louis Reverand came and broke up more land. The next year Ed Bruntlett broke up 14 more acres.

Other names that appear on the record of hired hands were: James Campbell, F. C. Rees, MacCafferty, Leyman, Harry Franks, James Goodwin, and Murry McDonald. During the depression years very little help was taken on, though, through a government sponsored work program some came to work for little more than their board plus whatever more the government paid them. Harvest time did require extra help but by then I was in my teens and was able to help out. In April, '36, Steve Belsky came out from Yugoslavia to work for Dad. He was a short rather stocky built young man and had done some wrestling in the old country and on several occasions tossed me onto his shoulder without batting an eye. Work was finished in October and he too moved on. John Buga of the district worked periodically for Dad for several years, 1938/39. There is undoubtedly many names missed too but as Dad got a combine there was a virtual halt in the requirement for help and it became scarce when World War II erupted in 1939.

We had very few hired women during those years, but when Mother had to go for a serious operation in Edmonton in August of 1937, Rita Acton came for about a month and later Dorothy Cowell to help with the household chores and she left 7 November, '37. The next summer Dad and Mother took a trip to Ontario for just over a month and a young girl, Alice Maynard, took over the household duties and did a good job for one so young.

In the depression year of 1930, Dad felt that he could manage to put in the crop himself and so I hired out to George Ward for several months. The year before, Mr. Ward had quite a chunk of land broken along side the road and clearing the roots off it was my main job while working there. I put in a good 14 hours a day and received six dollars a week and board. I remember wearing out several pairs of gloves on the job. That fall, Dad harvested a real bumper crop of wheat averaging 60 bushel to the acre and I stooked the whole 160 acres. In 1935 I started a radio repair business in Red Deer, though in the summer months I worked at home. I used to go back and forth to Red Deer on a bicycle. A few years later my radio business became a full time effort and my working time on the farm became much less. In 1940 I enlisted with the R.C.A.F. and went overseas the spring of 1941 where I was seconded to the R.A.F.

and later served three years in Egypt, Syria, and the Island of Cyprus before returning to Canada.

On discharge from the R.C.A.F., I opened up another radio repair business in Red Deer; however, due to various circumstances the business was anything but prosperous. Having married Rooney Woof also of Poplar Ridge, later, a daughter to also care for, decided to accept the R.C.A.F.'s offer of re-employment and spent nearly twenty years with the forces. We resettled in Red Deer on retirement but I went to Vancouver and worked three years for the Department of Transport at the International Airport.

Now that people everywhere are becoming more aware of the need to harness other forms of energy it might be of interest to note that I may have been one of the first in the district to harness wind power to generate enough electricity to provide lighting throughout the house. About 1935, I constructed a tower on top of our granary and mounted six volt Wincharger on top running two heavy cables to the large glass six volt battery in the house. This became the sole lighting system in the house. On an earlier attempt to utilize the wind I had constructed a many-bladed windmill fastening it to a set of gears off an old binder which in turn was connected to a car generator. It would get up to near operating speed and then the generator would cut in and with a great grinding of gears the windmill would almost stop and the relay would cut off and then the windmill would gain speed again with the same cycle of events happening. The noise from the gears was certainly polluting the surrounding area and that idea was reluctantly abandoned. There was quite a bit of interest in this line of endeavor those years and quite a few articles appeared in farm periodicals, especially how to make the single wooden propeller. Thirty-two volt units became more popular and provided power for 32 volt motors or appliances. One of the first gasoline powered electric plants I can recall was owned by Henry Hart about a mile east of our farm.

Farmers had been and probably will continue to be an innovative if not inventive group of people, so when Dad saw in the Family Herald and Weekly Star a set of plans for a special gate decided to adapt the plans to construct his new entrance gate. It consisted of two 6 x 6 posts set into the ground and spaced far enough apart for a tube-framed woven wire gate complete with two sets of arms to swing up and go between them. A couple of wooden arms stuck out from the top each way and stout rods came down from the inner end to connect on either side of the arms supporting the gate. From the far end of the long arms a stout rope dangled. The assembly was so balanced that a pull on the rope would raise the gate and swing it to the opposite side of the upright posts.

The general idea being that one could drive up to the gate, reach out and pull the rope, the gate would swing open; one would then drive through and again pull the rope and the gate would close. It remained in service a number of years but was prone to a lot of mistreatment and certainly a lot of passersby stopped to operate it.

Dad kept quite a record of work and events on the farm when he first started farming and well on until he quit farming and then it became more of a diary of more personal things. However, he recorded dates of when he got on the land, what was sown and the acreage involved, the first frosts and snowfall, and when the crops were harvested. He also included any special events such as the arrival of visitors, birth of various grandchildren and the names of various hired help. On one occasion he recorded that a two year old mare had won first prize at the Red Deer Agricultural Fair. On how in the early hours of the morning he was called on by the neighbor, Mr. Veal, to go to town to fetch Dr. Saunders out, several days later taking the dead baby and Mr. Veal back into town. On another occasion he was the census taker for 15 days collecting 1,333 names, driving a black, high spirited horse drawing a small buggy or cart from place to place. In 1925 he used to drag the road from Crossroads to near the meridian road using his seven horse team. For a few years he kept a record of how long it took each variety of grain planted to reach maturity.

For quite a number of years he helped with experimental work for the Government. They would send him marked packets of seed grain which he carefully planted in short rows keeping tab on each. Later the heads would be carefully harvested, bagged and labeled, and returned to the original source of the seed. He also sent in a weekly report of the local market to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics stating the prices offered farmers for various grains per grade, cattle and hogs.

Besides keeping records, Dad, for a time reported district news events for publishing in the Red Deer Advocate. As each article was printed, he clipped it out and pasted it in a scrap book. What a pity that he didn't continue this practice when someone else took over the correspondent duties. Dad was always going to have his farm officially listed as "Observation Farm". Certainly from the vantage point on the hill he could observe the countryside and while he served in the Army was a scout or observer between the lines — strange to say I can not recall that he ever achieved that one goal or dream. Subsequent to reporting news items, he contributed quite a number of articles to the paper including his own obituary notice with only the pertinent dates omitted.

Besides being the Secretary-Treasurer for the

school district for a couple of years, he was also the Secretary of the United Grain Growers local board, holding that position for 35 years. He was the Secretary of the local unit of the United Farmers of Alberta for a few years and was for a time the Chairman of the agricultural section of the Red Deer Board of Trade. He also became the Secretary of the Central Old Timer's Association at the time it was being contemplated. Later he served as the organization's President. He was an accredited member of the Seed Grower's Association and received their Long Service Award in 1963.

The Poplar Ridge Sports Club was started about 1937 with Grace Miller as President and myself as Secretary. As a club we were instrumental in getting the size of the school grounds enlarged. There were baseball games organized though mainly between members of the club at the school grounds. A few games were played with other local farm groups. The club sponsored quite a few dances at the community hall with the Roth brothers supplying the music. The club would meet at various members home where games and singing was the chief entertainment for the evening.

The Christian Srs. bought a brick house in Red Deer, April, 1944, and moved into it after harvest, October, 1944. Dad continued to go to the farm twice a day until his cattle were sold early in the year, and he continued to work the farm growing mainly grass seed, both Fescue and Crested Wheat grass, finally selling the farm to W. H. Edgar, May, 1958, and selling his machinery in June. He had turned 73 years of age by the time he sold the farm.

Mother passed away at the age of 62 years, June, 1951. Four years later Dad married Mrs. E. (Faye) Clark of Dumfermline, Scotland. In the fall of 1966 they moved to Kelowna where they lived for a few years and finally returned to Red Deer. Dad passed away October 7th, 1969, and Faye, December 3rd, 1977.

Edna married William Solick, January, 1935, and they still live on their farm located northeast of Red Deer in the Eureka Valley District. Their eldest son, David, lives in Calgary with his wife, Doris, and daughter, Tanya. Their second son, Harold, their daughter-in-law, Mary, and their children, Christopher and Kerri, live on a larger farm about a mile north of them. Edna's youngest son, Leonard, wife, Lucy, and grandson, Kelsey, also farm about 65 miles east of them — 12 miles south of Halkirk.

I married a local girl of the district, Rooney Woof, November, 1945. She was born in Kelowna and named after a lady who had homesteaded in the Evarts district. Our first daughter, Jean, arrived in 1946, and shortly after that I re-enlisted with the

R.C.A.F. with the result that our other three daughters were each born in different cities or towns. Shirley being born in Portage La Prairie, 1948; Marie at Rivers, Manitoba, and in Ottawa for our youngest daughter, Gerry Ann, in 1951. The year 1969 was a very eventful one for us, for we lost both our fathers, I lost my job with D.O.T. and within nine months our four daughters had married. Jean married Gerald (Jerry) R. Keeley, March, 1970, they have twin daughters, Robin and Daylin, and reside in Edmonton. Shirley married Lloyd Hamilton, July, 1969, and farm in the Willowdale district southeast of Red Deer. They have one daughter, Christine, and two sons, Raymond and Gregory, and had one deceased son, Randy. Marie married Joe Langevin, September, 1969, and live in Red Deer, and they have three daughters, Debora, Sheryl, and Tisa Jean. The youngest daughter married Nigel Hanson, July, 1969, and presently live in Red Deer with their two sons, Sean and Brett. About two years after our retirement in Oliver, B.C., Rooney passed away, June, 1973.

During the war years Rooney took a three year course at the Alberta School Hospital and obtained her certificate in Mental Deficiency Nursing, 31 May, 1945. Shortly after her marriage she left that employment; however, when we returned to Red Deer, 1965, she resumed her nursing duties for about three and one half years.

Harry Christie

by George Belich

When Harry Christie first arrived in the Red Deer area from Ontario, he took up a location northeast of town along the river. He took up housekeeping, bachelor style, in a tent. One morning, when he arose from his cot, he found himself knee deep in water. The river had risen in flood during the night and his meagre possessions were soaked or destroyed. This may have influenced Harry to seek higher ground which he did on the N.W. ¼ 26-38-28 just two miles west and a half mile north of the present Burnt Lake overpass where he farmed for many years.

The need for a house was always first and Harry bought one which had been built in North Red Deer in 1912. The date was learned from newspapers used for insulation. This house was moved to the farm with the help of some neighbors and twelve head of good horses and it made an admirable home for a man who never married.

Harry later bought the south half of 27-38-28 from the Joe Gaetz family when they moved to Red Deer in 1934. This he farmed for some years until he sold it to Fred Harvey in 1939.

Harry finally sold the home place to the Belich

Bros. in 1945 for the, then unheard of, figure of \$5,500.00 and moved to Red Deer to go into the machinery business with Nat and Hugh Lee for three or four years. He then built some houses in the fast growing oil city of Edmonton where he lived until his passing.

Harry was road foreman for John Wiggins, who was councillor for the M.D. of Golden West, and Harry was responsible for many local projects which are still visible today. At one time it was impossible to cross the slough, a half mile west, on the Poplar Ridge road so a forced road was built one half mile south and then turning north for a half mile to join the Poplar Ridge road again. Under Harry's direction a crew of men gathered one winter to cut heavy green logs and lay a "corduroy" on the ice of the frozen slough. The following summer the logs sank to the bottom and were covered with dirt to form a grade which was improved through the years and is still in use today.

Another of Harry's pet projects was the bridge over the creek on the Burnt Lake road near Joe and Dorothea Roth's house. A timber structure was built nine feet high and twelve feet wide and the approaches were built of dirt, hauled by four horses on a "Fresno" with one man "pushing". Many a man went over the top on these contraptions when the blade stuck on a rock, forcing the handle, to which the operator was attached, upward with great speed and force, taking the man with it and dropping him back to earth among the machinery and horses. One of these unfortunates was our own Jack Moore who had several such trips "upstairs".

To recall all of Harry's accomplishments in the district would require a book in itself. Suffice to state that to those of us who knew him, Harry Christie, a good neighbor and a real friend.



Grading the road, about 1928. Mr. Miller and Harry Christie building road past Millers.

Clucky

Bachelor — John McDonald's east quarter. School land. Lived there until second world war. Returned to Germany and lost all contact.

Doug and Mary Corrigan

I was born on Christmas day, 1926, to Herbert and Charlotte Corrigan at Hillsdown, Alberta. The youngest of their nine children. In November of the following year, my mother died and with two sisters and a brother, I was sent to Toronto to live with two of Dad's brothers. My sister, Anne, and I were raised by Fred and Martha Corrigan.

I first returned to the Red Deer district in the summer of 1942 for the first time and the first time I could remember seeing my father. He had remarried in the intervening years and I had five more brothers and sisters. As two brothers were overseas, I had come to help on the farm, at 16 and fresh from the city, my help was rather dubious in value. There was probably some improvement as I returned every summer during the war while attending high school.

In the fall of 1946, I entered the Ontario Agricultural College, then the Agricultural Faculty of the University of Toronto, now part of the University of Guelph. Following graduation in the spring of 1950, I was employed by Massey-Harris, as a service trainee for the princely sum of \$150.00 per month. After about a year in The Ontario Branch and with my salary raised by \$15, I decided I would rather be farming, so, I quit my job and headed for the familiar farming district of Red Deer. In the fall of 1951, I purchased the S.W. ¼ 30, 38, 27, W4 from Syd Wright, who had bought it a year or so earlier from



Mary, Doug, Peggy, Nancy (Spiller), Gwen, Nancy (Corrigan) Noren, Randy Noren, Jim Corrigan.

Ben Roth. I bought a new 1952 Dodge half ton truck from Northwest Motors then asked Fred Moore, the owner, and an old friend of my dad for a job for the winter. I pumped gas from the curbside of Gaetz Avenue in front of what is now the F. M. Hayhoe building. I went to the spring sale in Edmonton and bought some registered Yorkshire gilts and I was in the pig business as I have been ever since. The crop was put in that spring with some haste, as I had a rather important appointment for early June, back in Ontario.

On June 7, I was married to Mary Louise Neate in Nibleton United Church. Mary had graduated a few weeks before with a B.H. Sc. Degree from MacDonald Institute in Guelph, where we had met while I was at O.A.C. Mary was born in Kingston, Ontario to Jack and Eunice Neate. Her father had joined the permanent army as a young immigrant from England and like most military families, they had several moves. First to Winnipeg, where Mary took her primary education, then to Mimico, Ontario, then on her father's retirement from the Army, to Nibleton during the war years there was no shortage of jobs for High School Students. Mary picked fruit in the Niagara Peninsula and skimmed the feathers off the chicken soup at Campbell's. On one occasion, when her parents had gone to Ottawa for a few weeks, she was left to keep house for an older brother. He was not too appreciative of her efforts so was told to get his own meals and she went and got a job at Silberg's Distillery. Following a short honeymoon in Ontario, we picked up a new Dodge car, in Windsor, for Fred Moore, and headed west. We took the long way home, by way of Chicago and Yellowstone and took quite a bit longer than Fred expected. He was so disturbed that he refused to pay me the \$50.00 which I hadn't expected anyway for delivering his car.

Our first child, Gwendolyn Anne, was born October 23, 1953. I was new at this business of becoming a father and as everything seemed in order, had gone to a F.U.A. meeting, in the old city hall with Bob Edgar. Part way through the meeting, Les and Bill Edgar arrived to tell me they had just taken Mary to the hospital. She had walked across the field to Alma Edgar's with the nearest phone, who had phoned Les. Thank goodness for good neighbors. Gwen attended River Glen School, the first year in the old A20 Army camp huts. It was known as skunk hollow by the students because of the skunks under the buildings. While at River Glen, Gwen formed a close bond of friendship with Glenda Lewis of the Poplar Ridge district. Following graduation from Lindsay Thurber High School, she took one year at the Red Deer College and then transferred to the Faculty of Pharmacy at the U. of A. After graduation,

with distinction, she was employed for about four years by Mr. Tom Forkan, at his drugstore in Eckville. In the spring of 1979, she moved to Quebec City, learned French, and passed all the requirements to practice pharmacy in that province. On December 27, 1980, she married Robert Bussieres and they live in Beaufort, part of metropolitan Quebec City. Robert is an accountant with a farmer's mutual insurance company, insuring farm buildings.

James Sinclair, our second child and only son was born October 10, Thanksgiving day, 1955. He took his schooling at River Glen, the Comp, and two years of Art at the Red Deer College. While at the College he met Nancy Spiller, daughter of Ethel and the late Bill Spiller of Red Deer. They were married August 21, 1976, and left almost immediately for England. Jim had been accepted in the Art Course at Manchester Polytechnic. At the time of Jim's spring break, Gwen and our second daughter, Nancy, took the opportunity to visit them. They were able to rent a car and tour parts of England, Wales and Scotland. In the spring, because of the rising value of the Pound and other considerations, they decided to return home. Jim enrolled at the U. of A. and graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree in the spring of 1979. He was accepted for post graduate studies at the University and expects to receive his Masters degree in Visual Arts in September of 1981. All this would not have been possible without the financial and moral support of Nancy. Jim was able to help me around the farm during the summer holidays and many weekends. He also made it possible for Mary and I to take a trip to Hawaii, to visit Gwen in Quebec and drive to the coast on several occasions. Jim is an ardent skier and was enrolled in the Boy Scouts for a number of years. On one occasion, he was fortunate enough to be included in a bus load of scouts representing this province at the U.S. National Jamboree at Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.

Nancy Louise was born August 24, 1958, and as all of our children did, took her schooling at River Glen and Lindsay Thurber. She also enjoys skiing, as does her younger sister, Peggy. All the girls have taken Highland and tap dancing with varying degrees of competence and interest. Gwen, Jim, and Nancy were all active in the Poplar Ridge Home Design and Grain 4H Club. Dode Lewis, Evelyn Hudson, and Mary were leaders of this club. Nancy was married to Randy Noren, son of Sarka and Alf Noren on May 27, 1978, and they are living in Red Deer. Randy is a fourth year apprentice plumber, and Nancy has worked in the mail order department of Sears since their store was opened in Red Deer.

Peggy Lou was born July 25, 1963, and is presently in Grade 12 at the Comp. During the Easter

Holidays of 1979, she was able to take a brief tour of parts of Germany, France and Switzerland with a number of the Comp students.

In the fall of 1956, I purchased the N.W. ¼ of 35, 38, 28, W4 from Bill Wilde. The original building sight was subdivided out by Mr. Wilde and this was sold to Tom and Sheila Percival. In 1960, the Provincial Government started building Highway 2 along the west side of our quarter in the Crossroads district and as we had outgrown our 20' x 20' house, we decided to move to our newly acquired land in the Poplar Ridge District.

In the fall of 1961, a well was drilled by Roy Forrester, the basement was dug by Beckley and Campbell and the house was started by Bird Blakely and Bert McCune. Bird and Bert had been neighbors in the Shady Nook district, partners for a number of years, and good friends but this didn't prevent them from having some rather heated arguments. Bert owned the Skil Saw so did the cutting. Bird did the measuring so if a piece of wood didn't fit exactly, there was considerable discussion as to whether it was the measuring or cutting was at fault. They put up all my buildings with help from Jack Blakely, Bob Stewart, and my uncle, Carl Storey. As the pig business grew in my new buildings it became evident that I couldn't handle that and the farming too, so I farmed the land in partnership with my two brothers, Tom and Fred, from the Valley Centre district, for a number of years. I then leased the land to Art Scott, Bill Milne, Ed Roth, and for the past five years to Greg and Michael Roth.

Mary's hobby has been sewing. With herself and four children to clothe, this has been a great help to our finances.

There has been a regular demand for costumes for school plays, for dancing, for Halloween, clothes for dolls, and lately wedding and brides maid dresses. These demands she has always cheerfully filled. During the early sixties, she sang in the choirs of a number of productions of the Central Alberta Musical Theatre. During her spare time, Mary bore the brunt of the driving chores, to dancing lessons, music lessons, Boy Scouts, 4H Meetings, to the ski hill, and finally the College. She has worked part time in the fabric store, under several names and owners in the Parkland Mall, since its opening. Mary was a member of the Crossroads Community Club for a number of years and we are presently active in the Poplar Ridge Community Association.

During high school, I was introduced to photography and this has been my hobby ever since. I started curling in the old rink on 52nd Street where the Masonic Temple now stands with the Saturday Night Curlers, a group of farmers and wives from

east of town. I was a charter member of the Western Hog Growers Association, the Red Deer branch of the Alberta Institute of Agrologists, and associated with a number of camera clubs in Red Deer and Lacombe. Before they opened a branch in Red Deer, I was secretary of the U.F.A. local taking orders for farm supplies for district farmers. For some reason, I think because my father once had a large flock, I was put on the sheep committee of the Red Deer Exhibition. At the present time, I am serving as chairman of this Committee.

Bob and Phylis Crumback

Bob and Phylis Crumback bought part of the NE ¼ of 21-38-28-W4 from Mr. Woof in May of 1968. Phylis was the secretary of the Poplar Ridge Community Club and Bob served as President for one year. Their family of two boys and two girls went to school in River Glen and the two older ones attended the Comp. in Red Deer.

The Crumback's went to St. Albert in June, 1973, and from there moved to Quathiaske Cove, B.C.

Brian is married and lives in Quadra. Susan is now Mrs. Swanson and also lives in Quadra. Joan married Mr. Morgan and lives in Port McNiel. Dale still lives at home.

Bill Cunningham by Vera (Robinson) Mottus

Bill was born in Ireland and came to Canada as a young man. He settled in the New Bridgen area and worked on a farm for Jack Wilson. About 1937, he came to the Bentley area with Gerald Wilson. They farmed together until Bill rented a few acres at the Blindman River (straight north of the Poplar Ridge Hall) and started raising pigs. Several years later Bill went out of the pig business and went to work for George Daley at Sylvan Lake. He was on his way from Mr. Daley's to John MacDonalds in the Poplar Ridge district, when Evan Robinson picked him up and took Bill to his home where Bill stayed for the next ten years (1950-1960). He helped Mr. Robinson on the farm until his health deteriorated to the point where he was unable to work. Bill then went to the Twilight Lodge in Red Deer.

Bill met a lovely lady at the Lodge, Mrs. Edith May Mackenzie, and they were married June 28, 1962. Mrs. Mackenzie was originally from England. She had two children, a son still living in England and a daughter, Mrs. Barbara More of Red Deer. Bill and Edith moved to the Autumn Glen Lodge in Innisfail and lived there until her death, January 25, 1964. Bill moved back to the Twilight Lodge in Red Deer where he resided until his passing July 10, 1975.

Bill is remembered by the Robinson family as a very kind person, always getting along very well with the children. He took a keen interest in raising pigs and was a great help to Mr. Robinson in this area. He never turned away from a good argument especially on religion or politics.

Poplar Ridge History

Thomas Robert Cunningham and Family

We were married on July 15, 1940 and didn't have anything of our own, Tom had some horses that's all. We helped with fall work and threshing at Tom's oldest sister's place in Shady Nook District to make a little money to get a start, jobs and money were scarce. Times were hard.

Tom volunteered and joined the Army, 17th L.A.A. Battery on November 18, 1940 in Calgary, Alberta and was sent overseas in January, 1941. Tom trained in England and also took part in the Dieppe Raid. Thank God he returned to England, badly shaken up. Out of approximately 6000 — 3000 of our men came back — a terrifying experience. Still, they never gave them home leave and Tom was on Draft to go to Italy but was released on medical grounds. Tom then spent the remainder of the War training various personnel, approximately 200 men at a time, as Sergeant Instructor. All this was an awful shock to us and created great hardships for us both, being so young and just married and apart. Tom had expected to train in Canada. It seemed endless as the years slowly rolled by.

Our first baby was born August 10, 1941 — Bob, Tom was in Colchester, England at the time. Only those who went through these times could understand the trauma, emptiness, heartache and wariness of the danger and uncertain future for Tom and myself. Having your first child apart is alone, very cruel. We kept as close as we could by writing 3 times a week and exchanging snapshots. I so longed to hear his voice, I tried to send snaps of each growing stage of Bob's babyhood and childhood to keep it more like family life. I got most of Tom's letters and gifts but some of my mail was slow as he was moved to different camps. Tom was in an accident and hospitalized for about 8 weeks.

My grandmother (also relatives on Tom's mother's side) lived in Newcastle-On-Tyne, England, so Tom spent time there when on Leave. I had 4 Aunts, Uncles and Cousins there too. They were all super and shared rations with him as well. I also had my favourite cousin over there, he was in the American Army but they never got Leave together, so met after they got home. My Dad was also in the Home Guards. Bob and I were pretty much on our own. I rented a small house in Eckville, Alberta to be near

his folks and people I knew. I did sewing for the Red Cross, made doctor's gowns, knit socks and belonged to the Overseas Club, I also did custom sewing as well.

Tom sent me a nice silk scarf with his crest on it, silverware and jewelry. He sent a lovely bouquet of Mum's to say he got safely back from Dieppe. I felt very strange that day, his mother's birthday, August 19th, 1942, yet none of us knew about Dieppe. He was in my mind always.

Tom finally returned May 25, 1945 which was a day long to remember. We had a big reunion at his folk's place. You can imagine it being hard, everyone had changed and grown up in 5 years. Bob must have felt strange too. Places too, had changed. Our lives fell into place, at last I felt I had a husband to lean on.

We took up farming west of Eckville — S.W. ¼-5-39-3-W5. On April 15, 1946 we were blessed with twin boys, Barry and Brian. They were born at 7 months so were a great care but very interesting and sweet and grew up to be fine boys and a great help. Two years later we lost a baby boy, he was born too soon as well. I had to work hard, caring for the twins, helping outside and we had built a new house which also required a lot of work. We had to manage ourselves as there wasn't enough money to get help but my younger sister helped a lot when our babies were born. On September 17, 1952 our first baby girl was born, Barbara, by this time Bob was really a big help to me. Then on October 18th, 1955 another baby girl, Brenda came along and we felt our family was complete.

Times were hard. We would get hailed out and Tom had to work away from home to keep us going. He worked on the oil rigs as motorman and when the rigs moved he had to go with them. The boys and I were shipping bulk milk, milking by hand too, and had to have it out before school in the mornings, it was hard in the winter for all of us. They were terrific and I couldn't have managed without them. However, my health failed and I came down with Rheumatic Fever when Brenda was only 5 weeks old. I was told to get off the farm and slow down.

The farm had to be sold (I knew how Tom hated to do it too). Tom's Major in the Army always thought a lot of him and got him a position in the oil field, as Battery operator, running gas compressors for Trans Empire Oil Co. Later, this company was bought out by West Canadian Oils in the Edmonton area so we bought a new house in Edmonton. We all missed the country and farm in so many ways but loved the comfort and pleasure of our new home. Bob got a part-time job on the weekends and the twins took guitar lessons and did babysitting in the neighborhood. They all did well in school and played hockey

as well. However, we decided to raise our family in the country and Tom was unable to purchase land in the Edmonton area at that time.

We moved to the Poplar Ridge District on 26 acres in 1959, land location (SW ¼ 35-38-28 W4). Tom got a position with the Government and has now just completed his 21st year in their service. We also had 800 hens, Government inspected, and sold our own graded eggs. I took a course in Beauty Culture and Hairdressing and had my own shop in Bowden, Alberta for 1 year and Red Deer for 2 years which I really enjoyed. The boys had jobs after school and on weekends and also played hockey. The family really enjoyed the district and had many friends. Bob apprenticed in Auto Body shops and in time had his own Body Shop in Red Deer. Barry worked on the tow trucks and Brian went to Red Deer College. (Brian passed away in 1967). Barb and Brenda also worked in stores part-time while in school.

Bob married Carol Bertram in 1963 and have two boys, Tim born in 1966 and Kelly born in 1968. They lived in Red Deer where Bob had his own Auto Body Shop and tow truck service until 1972. They then moved to Calgary where he is presently in Real Estate and Carol works in the new "in" school system.

Barry married Ena Tenhove in 1968 and worked in the Insurance Adjusting business with different companies and now has formed his own Company in Red Deer. They have 2 boys and 1 girl; Brent, age 10 years; Curtis, age 8 years and Tricia Deanne, age 3 years.

Barbara graduated in 1971 from L.T.C.H.S., resides in Red Deer and has been employed with A.G.T., R.C.M.P. and is presently employed with the Red Deer College.



Bob, Phyllis, Tom, Brenda, Brian, Barb, Barry Cunningham.

Brenda graduated from L.T.C.H.S. in 1973, worked in Red Deer and took a secretarial course and has also worked in Calgary. She married Dan Taylor in July, 1977. Dan took a 2 year Surveying Technology Course at S.A.I.T. while Brenda was also employed at S.A.I.T. They are presently residing in Red Deer, where Dan is involved with the surveying field and Brenda is secretary for the Calgary Power Training Centre.

We moved to the City of Red Deer in 1967 and have since resided in and around the area.

Respectfully submitted, Mrs. T. R. (Phyllis) Cunningham

Dandurand — Poplar Ridge Estates

In the fall of 1975, Michael Dandurand of Montreal, Quebec, and Sherolyn Wowk of Leross, Saskatchewan met in Quebec City. Sherolyn had completed her studies at the University of Saskatchewan, Regina, with a major in French and after a two year stay in Europe went on to further her studies in the faculty of Administration at Sherbrooke, Quebec. A break in this program led her to Quebec City for an anticipated short period of time before returning to Saskatchewan to complete her degree in Administration. At the time, Michael was in professional skiing being proprietor of a small ski school and ski shop at the Manoir Pinoteau in Mont Tremblant, Quebec. In the summer this business was transformed to a scuba diving school and shop.

This scuba diving business led us to Red Deer to explore the market to see whether this type of commerce would be feasible in the province. Our market study proved that the Red Deer area did not lend itself to such a project. However, our immediate love for the city and its surroundings, with its proximity to the Rockies along with our desire to adventure into a new area with no friends or family ties to lean on, made us decide to move here and start a new life.

The fall of 1977 brought us to Red Deer with some meager possessions and our dog. We were married in November and were employed by the same real estate firm.

Through our dealings in real estate, we heard that Ray Bertram had a land development project five miles out of Red Deer. Since one of our priorities was to live in the country, I immediately contacted Ray and asked him to put our names on a list because at that time, treed acreage lots close to Red Deer were quite rare.

Luckily, these lots were not offered for sale till late in 1978. By the summer of 1979 we were able to purchase Lot 2 in the first phase and spent our evenings and weekends clearing the land. Wild-life was abundant in the area and before long our dog, Peanut

had his first experience with a porcupine. To this day, he has not learned his lesson.

That fall, we began construction on our log home. Michael and I did the general contracting as well as the sanding, varnishing, insulating and numerous odd jobs.

Our home was ready to move into by January and we took a well deserved trip to Mexico. Upon our return, I noticed that the water in the toilets was hot and mentioned this to Michael. He took it lightly and blamed it on Montezuma's revenge which kept the toilets in constant use thereby causing the water to heat up. However, after dragging him to the scene of the crime, he finally accepted that something was indeed amiss when I pointed out the steam rising from the bowl. Quick inspection of the system showed that the toilets were hooked up to the hot water line; comfortable but not practical. We had several of these problems during the construction period.

Spring brought plenty of rain, mud and misfortune. Michael had brain surgery and spent two months in the Foothills Hospital in Calgary.

Autumn brought better luck. Michael recovered and returned home to witness the paving of the roads in our sub-division. Our close was the first to be paved; several truckloads of asphalt were spread down the centre of the road leaving high ridges on either side and adjacent to this the original gravelled surface. This made driving rather difficult and I explained to Michael that paving was done this way in the West and that traffic would eventually spread and flatten the surface. He believed me and I felt I had finally gotten even for the many times he had pulled my leg. However, after several weeks, I too began to believe in my theory because our close was still in this condition and the rest of the roads in the subdivision were similar.



Ryan Dandurand, first baby born in Poplar Ridge Estates, November 21, 1980.



Mr. and Mrs. Michael Dandurand; Ryan in sleigh; dog called Peanuts.

Our autumn was further blessed with the birth of our first child, Ryan, on November 21, 1980. To commemorate the birth of the first baby at Poplar Ridge Estates, our neighbours presented him with a trophy.

In conclusion, I must mention that Poplar Ridge brought many jobs with its community spirit, neighbourliness and the willingness of everyone to pitch in and make this a good place to live and lend a feeling of belonging to those who have the good fortune to live here.

The Emery Demas, Senior, History 1859-1934

The senior Emery Demas and family came to Red Deer from Marmora, Ontario, in 1906. His wife's name was Marjorie. He had two sons, Jack and Mike and one stepson, Percy Legrow. He had three daughters: Maggie, Rosetta, and Evelyn. He worked in the Great West Sawmill in Red Deer. He was planer man and also worked in the saw filing room. Jack worked on the trimmers. They built a boarding house and boarded some of the men. They were among the crews that cut logs west of Sundre and brought them down the Red Deer River in the Spring.

In 1908, Jack bought a quarter of land on the south side of No. 11 Highway and one mile east of the fifth meridian. They farmed it together and the farming operation consisted of raising grain, horses, and hogs. They also cut and hauled cordwood for the power plant in Red Deer. In 1913, Emery bought one-half section of land north of Highway No. 11 and east



Back: Rosetta Demas, Jack, Maggie. Front: Emery Sr., Evelyn, Grandma Demas with Mike, Percy Lagrow, Marjory Demas.



Gladys Demas.

of the next road. He donated the S.E. corner for the Poplar Ridge Hall on Highway 11.

His wife died in 1913 and he died in 1934.

Mrs. Jack Demas (Gladys) is still happy and healthy and able to look after her house and lot in Rocky. She loves to think back to the early days at Poplar Ridge. She tells of the planning for the building of the Hall on Highway 11. How the building was financed and the many plans for dances and lunches that kept it going for many years.

A Picture of a Plane that crashed during training from Penhold Air Base during the war. It plowed through the trees on the Blind unused Road Al-



Training plane crashed near Demas home.

lowance East of the Fifth Meridian and very near No. 11 on the North side just across the Highway from Forrester's Well Drilling place. The pilot had a bit of a shock and a sprained ankle.

He was up and about when we got to the scene and was able to get help from the Air Base by telephone where we took him. Hope his landings were happier from then on.

W. E. Demas

Emery Demas, Junior 1919 —

In 1917, my Father, Jack Demas, and my Mother, Gladys Werner, were married. My memories start with some items about a newly bought piece of land on the North half of five on the east side of the fifth meridian, one half mile north of highway No. 11. I remember some things about the moving of household items and some things about clearing the first few acres and seeing the starting of the first headland of a new piece of breaking. I remember a hidden stone that sent the driver teamster rolling off the plow and some broken traces among the five horses that were pulling it. I remember having at that time two sisters, Kate and Mary. Breaking and clearing land and items of harvest were very interesting and to be remembered. From very early age we had chores to do, cows to be milked and calves and pigs to be fed and watered. All the land clearing was made more efficient when a 10-20 Titan I.H.C. and a lever lift cockshut breaking plow was put to use.

The day came to go to school. We got our start at Norma 885 on the north side of the tracks. A short time later we were given a new school on highway No. 11. It was still a long way from home on a cold day and none too warm when we got there as a wood fire was started each morning. However, many of the students got perfect attendance and no times late gifts at the end of the term. The program called for reading, writing, and arithmetic, subjects that were practical for that time. Everyone became quite skillfull in all of these through a course of time. Besides this we practiced for a winter concert and summer sports,



Emery Demas Jr., Madelene Demas, Philip Cole, Kathy and Marjorie Demas.

and we were interested and competed in the annual school fairs. Grades 1-9 were all taught in the same room and by one teacher. What to do when Grade 9 was over? To go further in school, we had to go to a town. Sylvan Lake only taught to Grade 11. Every morning, we met the total of Sylvan Lake Grade 12 students going to Red Deer — five. Sons and daughters of Sylvan Lake businessmen. So Grade 9 was the end of school for most rural students.

What about a job? We had a few too many cattle to pasture on the home place and still grow winter feed so I hired on with a man who was taking some out to Rocky for the summer. He was looking after them for 50¢ per head per month. Several people wanted to send a few head out. We got some from MacDonell who lived close by Poplar Ridge School. There were also about fifty head of black steers from Barney Raymer. Altogether, there were two hundred head. We made the trip fairly well and got them through the summer until fall when we returned them all in good shape. I was suppose to get \$15.00 per month for the three month period but the boss said he didn't have that much left. He offered me the horse that I had been riding during the summer. I knew that he had bought the horse for \$30.00. I looked at the alternatives and accepted the horse. It became very useful for the next few years as this became an annual trip and later with just our own cattle. There were many experiences and problems on these trips. Sometimes we would get to Sylvan Lake and be short handed and found that the cattle and bathing beauties did not mix. Each year there seemed to be some problem that the chuck wagon got

separated from the cattle. Probably could make a small book all of its own.

I found a quarter section of land that could be bought north of Rocky within one-half mile from school. This looked easier for the girls, my sisters, to get to school so we made our home there in August, 1936. I went to work in the saw mill business and part logging or mill work. I started going to the Prairies for harvest work. Also worked some on the Penhold Hangars. We got an unheard of hourly wage of 55¢ per hour at Penhold. About this time, I was called in for basic army training. I made my first train ride out to Camrose. Sixty-three days later, they gave me a train ride back home with a medical discharge.

My sister, Kate, was married in 1939. Mary was married in 1940 and Lila in 1944.

I began working in the mills quite regularly again. I spent about ten years canting and two years sawing while trying in between times to build up the farm to where I could make a living with the livestock. Sometimes shortage of feed would make a real set back. I spent two summers on a brush cutting cat out of Innisfail. I finally got going again with the livestock and have been able to stay with it for some time now. There was some close calls with long winters, unexpected storms, feed losses and poor prices. I have been very pleased with some of the land that I have had the use of — good hay and pasture land — some of it Government lease. I have been pleased to see the progress of the country since I first saw it. We can expect now to get to town and back in the same week. Although I haven't been on the executive of the Rural Electric program, I was among the nineteen subscribers who brought it in north of town. We have rural mail at the gate and a telephone. I was able to take part in the rural gas program from the first canvas to the installation and use of it by over six hundred customers. I have found our local Co-op to be a good company and have been a director for seven years and been interested in the Gas Co-op Federation.

I married Madelene Cole in 1956. I have one stepson, Philip Cole, and two daughters, Marjorie and Kathleen. Philip and Kathleen are married. Kathleen has one daughter, my granddaughter. Marjorie works as a receptionist in a doctor's office. My mother lives in Rocky Mt. House. My dad died in 1969.

Demas Family of Poplar Ridge

The Demas family came from Marmora, Ontario, to Red Deer in 1906.

Mr. and Mrs. Emery Demas had a large boarding house in North Red Deer as at this time there was a big sawmill in North Red Deer.



Jack and Mike Demas.

Mr. Emery Demas bought land in Poplar Ridge in the year 1912 — NW¼ of 32-38-28-W4. I don't remember the name of former owner. Sold this land to soldier settlement board and moved just north of Sylvan Lake Highway two miles north of Poplar Ridge School in 1920. Farmed there until his death in 1934.

Son, Mike Demas, bought land in Poplar Ridge in 1928. Lived there till his death in 1960. He was married to Mary Werner, daughter of William Werner. All their children attended Poplar Ridge School. Children were: Leo, Rosetta, Emile, Anne, Betty, Ken, and Ben Demas.

Miss Dora Bjelke was the teacher of Poplar Ridge in the late '20's and early thirties. Then, Miss Helen Neilson came to teach and was a favorite teacher of the children. Mrs. Nash and Miss Audrey Schaefer followed her.

by Mary Rumpf

De Pauw, Joseph and Matilda

Joe came to Red Deer from Belgium with his father, mother, sister and brother in 1910.

In 1914, he joined the 8th Battalion Canadian Railway Troops, spending four years overseas.



The Joseph DePauw family.



Original home of Joseph and Matilda DePauw (Poplar Ridge). Bob and son Ed, Maurice, Matilda, Joe and Paul.



Ronald, Darlene Kokatailo, Robert, Neilie, Edward, Margret, Sharon DePauw.

In 1918, he returned to Red Deer later working in Wiltshire's Bakery. The following year, he married Matilda Forveque, whom he met while in France in the army.

In 1919, he bought the NW ¼ 3,39,28 W4 Meridian where they moved into a small three roomed house.

In 1949, he sold the farm to Floyd Van Slyke and moved to Vancouver, staying there two years. They moved back to Red Deer and bought a house in North Red Deer.

Matilda was in poor health and Joe cared for her a number of years. She eventually had to go to a Nursing Home in Calgary, and when the West Park Nursing Home was opened, she was moved there, where she passed away February, 1968.

Joe remained in his home in North Red Deer until his passing, July, 1969. They had three sons: Robert (Bob), Paul, and Maurice.

De Pauw, Robert and Nellie

Robert was born in 1920 in the farm home, the eldest son of Joseph and Matilda DePauw. He attended school in the Poplar Ridge School.

Bob joined the Canadian Army Service Corps in 1941, stationed in Ottawa until 1946, when he was discharged.

In 1944, he married Nellie McGovern in Ottawa. After Armistice, they returned to Red Deer, moving on the farm with his father-in-law for a year. Then to Rimbey where he operated a Dray Business and a Bakery which he sold and came back to Red Deer, working as a carpenter.

In 1955, he started driving truck for Jubilee Beverages, where he is now Premix Department Manager.

They have three children: one son, Edward, of Calgary, two daughters — Sharon of Vancouver and Darlene (Mrs. Ron Kokotailo) of Edmonton

De Pauw, Paul and Iva

Paul married Iva Grandbois of Vancouver in 1948. They have four children: three sons — Ron, Bradley and Dwayne, and one daughter, Elaine.

DePauw — Maurice, Helen and Four Children: Tony, Lee, Dean and Julie written by Maurice DePauw

I was born in 1933 and lived with my parents, Joe and Matilda Depauw, on a farm in the Poplar Ridge district until the spring of 1949. I took part of my schooling at Poplar Ridge school and in the spring of '49, my parents sold their farm and we moved to Vancouver. We resided there until the fall of 1949,



Lee, Tony, Helen, Maurice, Julie, Dean DePauw.

which at that time we moved back to Alberta settling in Rimbey and attending school there until the spring of 1950. At that time we moved to Red Deer, finishing my schooling there and on to Tech. school in Calgary where I graduated from Mechanics in 1957.

In May of 1960, I married the former Helen Hancik of Rimbey. We purchased our farm in June of 1960, which is located in the Blackfalds, Lacombe area and is known as the old Coverdale Farm. We have three boys and one girl. Tony, 19, graduated out of High School. Lee, 16, is finishing Grade 11. Dean, 13, is in Grade 8. Julie, 8, is in Grade 3. I still practice my mechanics during the winter months with the help of my wife and family we are able to keep the farm going also.

Jean C. De Smet and Hortense De Smet by Bea Ward

Uncle John and Auntie, as they were known, were born in Belgium. They came to North America about 1910.

They arrived in New York after a long hard journey by boat then on to Livermore, California, by train — also a long journey, a hard journey. Unable to speak English proved another hardship but in true pioneer spirit they ventured onward. Their stay in Livermore was brief as jobs were scarce and the heat was too much! They moved on to Seattle and then Canada — settling in Red Deer.

The year of their arrival in Red Deer is not known. Uncle John was naturalized in April of 1914. The Great War of 1914-1918 broke out in August, 1914, and they returned to Belgium in September, 1914. He was a cook in the Belgium Army.

They returned to Red Deer soon after the end of the war. Uncle John worked on the C.N.R. as a section man for several years. Mr. Chris Peterson was his foreman.



Uncle John and Auntie De Smet.

In 1930, he bought N.E. ¼ 31-39-28 West of the 4th Meridian from Percy Legrow. They farmed there until 1946 when they sold to Arnold Kimbal. They lived in the area until about 1948 when they moved to Burnaby, B.C., returning to Red Deer in 1955.

Auntie and Uncle John had no children of their own but helped raise several, including myself. They were not related to me but they gave me a good home for ten years.

They were a wonderful couple who greatly enjoyed people, gardening, and their home.

Mrs. De Smet passed away in 1957 and Mr. De Smet in 1970. They are both buried in the Red Deer Cemetery.

Robert and Bertha Doig (Poplar Ridge)

written by J. B. Moore

Bertha, with her mother and father, came to the district from Ontario around the turn of the century and settled on the S.E. 22-38-28 W4th. Bertha attended the Poplar Ridge School. Her father, Billie Stewart, was a quiet person and would certainly never set the world on fire although he did manage to acquire another quarter, S.E. 21-38-28 W4th, which was sold to Byron Raymer later on. I didn't know him very well but he had a small sawmill and took logs from his property to make lumber and I'm sure much of it was used to build some of the earlier houses and granaries. I don't remember her mother so I suppose she had passed on before I came.

Bobbie Doig came on the scene after W.W. I and Bertha and he were married and lived with her folks for some time until they bought another quarter, S.W. 17-38-28 W4th, and as relations between Bobbie and



Mr. and Mrs. Stewart. He named the Poplar Ridge.



Mrs. Doig.



Bob Doig and Ernie Hall.



Another view of the house. Emerson and Myrtle are in the edge of this picture.

“Old Billie” were something less than convivial, Bobbie moved up to this quarter and milked a few cows and Bertha used to go up periodically to pick up the cream and clean up his shack generally, Bobbie Doig, sailor, soldier, drifter, carpenter, farmer, and truly a lovable character. After W.W.II, we settled on N.W. 22-38-28 W4th, so their place cornered ours to the S.E., we used to walk across the fields to visit them as Bertha’s father had passed on. Their buildings were just about in the middle of the quarter so privacy they had. A conversation with Bobbie always left me with the wish that the world could be as he

wanted it. The Boer War found him in South Africa and of course he enlisted, if not with the British Army, then with some local rangers but I believe the British Army. He enlisted again in World War I and at sometime was awarded the M.M. (Military Medal). I never knew what for and one doesn’t ask at least not between veterans but I have heard him tell someone else very quickly that it came up with the rations.

My wife and I would go over some day and Bobbie would be pumping water for the cows but at the same trough would be a couple of deer quite tame, he was friend to all animals and birds. Always we’d receive a Royal Scottish welcome, he’d be working at something or other, his pants held up with an old piece of rope and binder twine for bootlaces, not because he couldn’t afford a belt and store bought laces but it was so much easier he said and you always had new material handy when you threw the old ones away. I don’t think we ever met without him quoting some lines of Robbie Burns, I wondered how he remembered all of it until one time he showed me the whole works of Burns poems and he said, should there be nothing else to read, he always returned to Burns for his reading. I always enjoyed listening as Burns is always better delivered with a pure Scottish accent.

During W.W. II, he and many other farmer neighbors worked at the Penhold Airport building hangars and all types of buildings, he told me he enjoyed every minute of it especially when the Commonwealth fliers started to come there for training, he said being around the forces there was the next best thing to being in the forces.

The years rolled on, and after several sessions in the hospital, Bobbie Doig left this world the fall of 1959. Bertha carried on for a few years and then sold the place to Henry Metz and moved to a nice little cottage along the front of Sylvan Lake where we visited her often until she went to the Sylvan Lake Lodge being unable to care for herself as she had several strokes. Finally she went to the Red Deer auxiliary Hosp. and was there for a year before she died at around 85 years of age. She is buried with her parents in the Red Deer Cemetery and Bobbie who died at around 83 is buried in the field of Honor also in the Red Deer Cemetery.

Bertha Doig by Hal Archibald

Bertha Doig was one of our closest friends. As a child, I remember having Bertha read all the stories from the First Grade Reader (Little Half Chick, Chicken Little, The Little Red Hen, etc.) over and over again.

Bertha was married to Bob Doig who lived on the

edge of Burnt Lake. Bertha and Bob seldom lived together until the passing of her father, old Billy Stewart. I remember Billy Stewart as a very religious recluse. Bertha was an accomplished actress and took part in the Christmas concert at the Poplar Ridge Hall each year.

The Dudgeon Family

Ian, Norma and Mairi (age 2) moved into the Poplar Ridge District in 1967. They built their home on a 20 acre parcel.

A son, Kenneth, was born in 1969. Ian was and is still employed with A.G.T., and Norma taught at River Glen School.



Mairi, Ken, Norma, Ian Dudgeon.

The family moved to Hanna in 1973 where they resided for approximately two years and then they moved to High River.

Ian is still raising Quarter Horses and is very involved in minor sports. Norma is teaching in Junior High. Mairi is presently in High School and is very actively involved in music and local theatre. Kenny is finishing elementary school and is an ardent hockey player and an avid sports fan.

Cattle Brand —AD.

Thomas East

by Kathleen M. Lawrence

Having decided that Canada offered more opportunities for his family, especially the boys, Mr. and Mrs. East (his second wife) left England and set out for Canada aboard the S. S. Victorian, arriving at the Port of Quebec on June 15, 1906. They and the family — two boys and three girls — came west, living on

the Willet place, N.W. 10-38-28, W4 in the Shady Nook District for a few months. In the fall of 1906, the NE ¼ 12-39-28-W4 in the Poplar Ridge district was purchased from Mrs. Aitkins for \$5.00 per acre and later the NW ¼ 12-39-28-W4 was added to the holdings. A more heart-breaking, God-forsaken half section would be hard to find. Thomas East wanted seclusion and this he certainly found. Bordered on the north by the Blindman Rivr and valley, the farm was cut through by deep ravines running to the river. A 40 acre field in the NW ¼ 12 was completely severed from the rest of the farm by a very deep ravine and could be reached only by diverting through a neighbor's farm to the south, a time-consuming chore when all the farm work was done with horses. About the year 1913, the C.N.R. right-of-way was built through the middle of the farm from east to west, adding further to the hardships of moving cattle and machinery from one part of the farm to the other.

Thomas East built a six-room, two storey log house on the NE ¼ 12 from spruce logs taken from a nearby ravine. It was from this home that the two youngest children, John, aged nine, and Kathleen, aged twelve, walked to the Poplar Ridge School. John completed Grade Eight at this school.

By his own admission John "hated farm work" and at the age of seventeen went to Red Deer to work for the C.P.R. In his spare time and because of his love for building, he constructed a miniature locomotive of wood complete with wooden tracks and ties and a roadbed that wound around the slopes of a ravine near the log home.

John married Mamie Hill in the early 1920's. They finally settled at Ladner, (now Delta) British Columbia where Mamie died in 1962. John remarried in 1973 and still lives in Delta. He had no family.

Raymond East was seventeen years old when the family came to Canada. He was a keen lover of the land and was the main stay of the farming operation, doing much of the work and hauling fire wood to Red Deer in the winter to earn extra cash. His dream and earnest desire was that his father would buy a level piece of good farm land. This dream never became reality as he enlisted in the army at the beginning of World War I and was killed April 9, 1917, in the Battle of Vimy Ridge.

Kathleen East, after several years of schooling, remained at home to help with work on the farm and in the home. The farm was sold in 1925 to Ralph V. Wilkins, and Kathleen and her father moved to Rocky Point on Vancouver Island where they lived until 1930. They returned to Alberta to live in the Jarvis house on the NE ¼ 1-39-28-W4 which had been purchased by Ralph Wilkins. Here Thomas



Dorothy, Kathleen, Thomas, Raymond and John East, about 1910.

East died on July 3, 1933 and was buried in the Red Deer Cemetery.

Kathleen continued to live in the area and worked for numerous families in Poplar Ridge and Red Deer. When her brother, John, lost his first wife she went to live with him at the Coast until he remarried. She returned to Alberta to live at the Senior Citizen's Lodge at Sylvan Lake.

Dorothy East, at 15 years of age, began working in Red Deer but returned home in 1910 to nurse her step-mother who was dying of cancer. Mrs. East passed away on March 19, 1912, and was buried in the Red Deer Cemetery. Dorothy was married in 1917 to Tom Percival of Red Deer who was employed by the C.P.R. They lived in Red Deer on 53rd Street in the house that still stands on the west side of the Model Apartments. They moved to Calgary in 1932 where Tom Percival was again employed by the C.P.R. until his death in 1938. Dorothy remarried twice but was predeceased by both husbands and now lives in a nursing home in Calgary. Tom and Dorothy had three children: Edith, who died as a child, Raymond, born in 1921, married and has seven children and nine grandchildren and lives in Calgary, Dorothy, born in 1929, never married and is a missionary in Brazil.

Vera, whose lifelong dream was to be a teacher never went to school after coming to Canada. At the age of 13 she went to Red Deer to work for such families as Rev. and Mrs. Leonard Gaetz, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Wallace, and Mr. and Mrs. E. M. Wilson. She remembers with respect and affection the kindnesses shown by Mrs. Gaetz to her, a thirteen year old girl in a new country and facing a vastly different life than that from which she had come. Mrs. Gaetz offered to help Vera continue her education but Vera, feeling that she did not have adequate or suitable clothing, decided she should continue

working to earn money. So, the opportunity passed and her dream was never realized. She worked for a while in the Red Deer Post Office under Postmaster Edis. In 1916, she married Ralph Wilkins and moved back again to the Poplar Ridge District in 1925.

The winter of 1906-07 was cold and stormy and on the 1st, Jan., 1907, Vera and her sister Dorothy started to walk from Red Deer to Poplar Ridge not realizing that the temperature was about 50 below zero. The snow was some three feet on the level and they were hauling a small sleigh with parcels tied on along the trail made by traffic. Reaching the top of the Convent Hill, they were faced by a brisk north wind and were getting very cold. They were met by a farmer, Jim Wright, who advised them to stop at the next house where Jack Lamont lived. They were taken in and warmed up as both the girls' fingers were frost bitten and then Jack kindly hitched up his team and drove them home, upsetting once while driving through drifts. Jack would not stop overnight and this was a good example of the neighborliness which existed at that time.

At the time of the above incident, Jack Lamont lived in the Woodsworth house on the site of the late Les Edgar's home.

Robert Samuel Edgar

I, Robert Samuel Edgar, was born on August 6, 1946, in Calgary, Alberta. I grew up on the farm in the Crossroads district. I went to school at Crossroads until grade 6, then to River Glen and the Composite High School in Red Deer. Farming be-



Bob, Linda, Jacky, Kathy and Terry (baby) Edgar.

came my full time career at the age of eighteen. This included milking 120 cows and grain farming with my father, Robert M. Edgar, and my younger brother, John McKee Edgar. Our dairy was on the S.E. ¼ 25-38-28 W4. We farmed six quarters then.

In 1966, I was married to Linda D. Wood, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. F. J. Wood, of Red Deer. We now have three daughters. Jacky was born in June, 1967. Katherine was born in July, 1970. Terry Ann was born in May, 1979.

I'm now in partnership with my father and we are farming eight quarters. We both reside in the Poplar Ridge district where we built a new farmstead on S.W. ¼ 28-38-28 W4. My brother, John, lives on the home quarter presently.

Linda is active in the Crossroads Community Club and she enjoys curling. The children are active in skiing, horseback riding, swimming and music. We attend the Gaetz United Church.

Edward Theodore (Ted) Edgington

Edward Theodore (Ted) Edgington lived on the Woof place for some time then moved to across from Levi Millers. Ernest Richard (Dick) was brought up by Ted and his sister, Mrs. Hannah Reed, who lived with Ted.

Mrs. Reed was a wonderful lady and a church worker. She lived until she was 87.



Hannah Reed, 1928.



Edward (Ted) Edgington and Richard (Dick) Edgington, 1928.



Dick and Audrey Edgington.

Dick went to school in Poplar Ridge. He and Audrey were married in Vancouver in 1927. They lived on the farm with Ted and Mrs. Reed from 1928 until they moved into Red Deer; then they took over the property and farmed until 1944. They sold the farm to Harry Binning and moved to Vancouver with their only son, Aubrey Richard.

Aubrey Richard is married and lives in Coquitlam, B.C., with his wife and two children.

Mrs. Minty, a sister of Mrs. Edginton, was a widow with two children, Joan and Freddie. They attended school at Poplar Ridge in 1939. Mrs. Minty later married Ernie Wills.

Lawrence and Marion Everson — W ½ 21-38-28 W4

In 1964, Lawrence and Marion Everson purchased W-½ 21-38-28 W4 and S.W. ¼ 28-38-28 W4 from Margaret Bouskill who had been widowed several years earlier. She had farmed this land with her husband and son, Ted, for eight years. There were still signs of other owners around the farmyard. E. G. Egg crates marked Stephens, old newspapers addressed to Stephens, childrens names carved in a bedroom door. Being used for a chicken house was a small low building with slightly rounded roof insulated well with a length of stove pipe chimney was sticking out one side. An old matchbox and dust pan were hanging on the wall. This building was typical of "The Bunk House" used in threshing days. Paliser Hotel is scratched permanently on the front. A coal stove and some housekeeping articles from the 30's are now in this building and it is hoped it will be passed down from owner to owner as a reminder of the "Depression Days."

Lawrence was not a new farmer, having farmed in Saskatchewan from the age of 14 when he had to take over from his father who was chronically ill. In 1946, he married Marion Weighill who came to nurse at the Community Hospital. They rented and farmed up to 14 quarters in the Viceroy district of southern Saskatchewan.

In 1960 with their children, Bruce (11 years), Calvin (7 years) and Penny (3 years), Lawrence and Marion moved to Red Deer where Lawrence worked in Real Estate before returning to farming in the Poplar Ridge district. He formed Trinity Realty and retained this company while farming.

The S.W.¼ of section 28-38-28 W4 was in wind rows ready to be burned. The family burned these and put this land into first wheat then barley production. Trees obtained from the county were planted around a previously used but now abandoned homestead site. A clump of native trees are not disturbed because of the presence of a small grave, unmarked except for a tall Spruce tree at the head of it. This quarter was sold to Bob Edgar in 1972. The S.E.¼ of Section 32-38-28 W4 purchased from Evan Robinson in 1970 was sold in 1972 to Allen Holland.

In 1978, Lawrence and Marion were allowed to subdivide 17 acres of sandy knoll and bush into 1 plus to 4 acre parcels. A county structural plan for Poplar Ridge put out in 1978 has provided for further subdivision of the W ½ 21-38-28 W4. Approximately 40 new families will be living on a portion of this quarter section. A son, Calvin, and a daughter, Penny McPhedran, both settled on acreages in the trees.

George and Yvonne Feoderoff

George Feoderoff was born in Russia, leaving to settle in France where he married Yvonne Contu. George and Yvonne immigrated to Canada sometime before World War II, probably 1938 or 1939. George Feoderoff and Nicholas Andreef, although both were born in Russia, did not meet until they were in France.



Feoderoff's Sale, January, 1948.

Mr. and Mrs. Feoderoff bought the Wood's place about 1939. They were hard working people. Mrs. Feoderoff suffered a stroke which left her paralyzed for the rest of her life. They adopted a little boy, Bernard. He was in Grade One when the Feoderoffs sold the farm in 1948 and moved to Red Deer. A year or so later, they moved out to B.C. where the climate would be easier on Mrs. Feoderoff. She passed away out there a few years later. George moved back to Alberta where he worked as a cook north of Edmonton. He made a return trip to France and when asked if he'd taken his second wife with him, he replied, "You don't take a sandwich to a feast." All contact with the family has been lost in recent years.

Mr. and Mrs. E. S. Finch

Minnie and Ernest Finch were both born in London, England.

They were married April 14, 1906.

A daughter, Muriel, was born to them in Tyne-mouth, England.

In 1912, they decided to come to Canada to Calgary. That was their home until 1919. By this time a second daughter, Joan, was added to the family.

The Finchs needed a change, farming must have looked good, so to Red Deer, here Ernest bought S.W. 2-39-28-4 in the Poplar Ridge District from Ed Martin. After acquiring a team of horses and a hay-rack, Mr. Finch made a trip back to Calgary to get their furniture and cow. The trip took 10 days.

From the life of a salesman, both in England and Calgary, to the life of a farmer in the early days must

have been a very difficult transition. To eke out a living from a quarter section even in those days required extra activities, such as sawing wood during the winter and grinding feed for the neighbors. The old wood heater ate up huge piles of firewood, even then one could not wash the kitchen floor, when it was cold, the water would freeze immediately.

The farm was worked with four head of horses and small machinery.

The close neighbors were the Bones, Kirklands, McDonald, Christians and Neilson.

Muriel and Joan both went to school at Poplar Ridge and Crossroads.

Percy Lagrow and Muriel were married in 1925, they had two girls, Marjorie and Iris. But sadly, Muriel passed away at the time of Iris' birth.

Marjorie married Bud Brequist in Kamloops, December, 1949. They had four children and now live in Calgary.

Iris married Bill Price in the late 1940's. Have a family of three in Beachburg, Ontario.

Joan, the Finch's youngest and now only daughter married Hans Mueller in 1932. They moved to Eureka Valley district near Joffre. Their family consisted of three girls and two boys. Hans' health forced him to retire to Red Deer in 1967. Their two boys are farming in Joffre and Lacombe. The girls are all married. Two live in Calgary and one in Red Deer.

Joan recalls some of her school years at Poplar Ridge, when you went to school and had to keep your coat on all day because the room would not warm up. She still terms it as fun years when you used to travel by sleigh over the fields.

Another incident was that nearly every winter their house chimney would catch on fire and her Dad would climb on the roof to pour salt down it, to put it out.

Everyone made their own fun, picnics in the summer, pie socials, taffy pulls, what a mess that was, card parties and concerts.

Mr. Finch served on the local school board for years. He helped to get church services started in the school house. He also served on the hall board. They both were active in community work.

Mrs. Finch was a W.I. member and she loved to crochet and read. Also was an active member of the Anglican Church.

In those early years the No. 11 Highway to Sylvan Lake was just that, a trail through all the low places, the road was corduroy, logs placed crosswise on the road so one would not drop out of sight in the mud.

In 1942, Mr. Finch sold out to Frank Mitchel, the reason being that his health had given out. They moved to Red Deer and he died in 1954.

Mrs. Finch then went to live with her daughter,

Joan, in Joffre until 1967. She returned to Red Deer where she lived until her death. The last four years were spent in the Valley Park Manor. She was ninety-five years old.



The E. S. Finches threshing.

The Fisher Family by the late Agnes Boddy

Mr. Fisher and his eldest son, F. B. Fisher, arrived in Red Deer by train in January, 1904, from Great Falls, Montana, and settled in the Poplar Ridge District west of Red Deer on a timbered half-section bought by F. P. Fisher.

Mr. Frederick Fisher, whose full name was Frederick Joseph Tice Fisher was born and raised in London, England. He used to tell his children (the writer is his youngest daughter, Agnes Boddy, and the last survivor of his family of nine) that he was a 'Cockney' which meant that he was born within the sound of Bow Bells as were his father and grandfather. His father was Joseph Fisher, a carriage maker in London. His carriages were bought by the wealthy class and were very beautiful and were hand made. I thought perhaps the Fisher Body people were some of his descendants.

Then a young man, Mr. Fisher came to Montreal on a sailing vessel but went back to London after a year. He married my mother, Mary Jennett Noyce in 1865. After the birth of their second child the four of them came to Canada, F. B. Fisher was the first child and the second was Ruth who afterwards became Mrs. Andrew Neilson and she and her family settled in the Red Deer District also.

Upon coming to Canada, Mr. Fisher settled in Windsor, Ontario, and founded a general store business and there the rest of the children were born. Having given too much credit he went bankrupt and moved to Manitoba to homestead in 1882. After a few years there F. B. Fisher's wife died at the birth of their first child, Ivan Myrell, who was adopted and raised by Mr. and Mrs. Fisher, Sr. Soon after the birth of Ivan, all the Fishers moved to Great Falls, Montana where they lived for nearly nine years.

F. B. Fisher's land at the Poplar Ridge area, SW and SE 1-39-28-W4, "Edgar's farm on Sylvan Lake Trail", was heavily timbered and in clearing a place for a house, Mr. Fisher, Sr., got in the way of a falling tree and had his leg shattered above the ankle. Dr. Richard Parsons of Red Deer finally succeeded in saving the leg but he lay in a cast for over a year.

There was no school at Poplar Ridge and no passable road — just a trail and in the spring there were logs laid down through the low places and these were called Corduroy Roads and were anything but firm!

The family now consisted of the Senior Fishers: Agnes, Ivan and F. B. Fisher so the two Freds joined the other settlers in getting the Government approval for a new school; Mr. Fisher, Sr., was the first Secretary-Treasurer and F. B. Fisher was the chairman of the school board. The first school taxes were \$9.40 a quarter per year, a mere pittance of what it is today.

Ivan attended this school through the public grades, then the Senior Fishers moved to Red Deer where Ivan took a High School and he afterwards worked in the office of the Canadian Bank of Commerce. He did very well in his work and while in the Monitor Branch, he enlisted in the Army in the First World War. Both F. B. and his brother Arthur Fisher who were then living in B.C. enlisted the first month of the war and they served overseas for five years. Unfortunately, Ivan was killed in action in August, 1916, and was buried in Belgium at Neux-de-Meins and I have two pressed Flanders Poppies picked and sent me by a friend who was also in the army.

The two older Fisher brothers returned home but health was ruined by the War Years and F. B. Fisher lived about two years and died suddenly of a Cerebral Hemorrhage, he is buried in Vancouver. Arthur lived to well over eighty but his hearing had been destroyed. He is buried in Armstrong, B.C.

Mrs. Fisher, Sr., lost her memory after Ivans death and lived for six years. She is buried in Red Deer. Mr. Fisher, Sr., after his wife's death went to live in Vancouver where he is buried.

The Senior Fishers' family, ten including Ivan were scattered far and wide but the Hill on the Sylvan Lake road is still called the "Fisher Hill". What I remember most about my parents is how they befriended so many people wherever they settled and I feel deeply grateful to the many folks in and around Red Deer who were so kind to my Mother after she was stricken so sadly.

Forrester, Roy and Ellen **by Ellen M. Forrester**

My husband, Roy, was born in Cardston, Alberta, on May 6, 1918. He was the second of three

children born to William and Sarah Forrester. They moved to Innisfail in about 1920. Roy lived there until 1939. The next five years were spent working on farms in the Ponoka and Wetaskiwin areas. He returned to Innisfail in 1944 at which time he and his father went into the water well drilling business. The partnership was dissolved in 1949. Roy's father, working mostly in the Innisfail area, and Roy in the Red Deer area. This is when I became a driller's helper.

I was born in the Willowdale district near Red Deer on May 8, 1928, the eldest of nine children born to John and Celeste Kind. I went to school at Springvale and later in Red Deer. While attending school in Red Deer, I stayed at the Dormitory on Gaetz Avenue. After leaving school, I worked as a sales clerk and spent a lot of time playing softball.

Roy and I were married in Red Deer on November 25, 1946.

We rented a small two roomed house on 43 Avenue, Red Deer, from my Aunt and Uncle, Gladys and Ken Bryant and lived there until August, 1951, then moved to our own place at 3825-46 Street, Red Deer, that we had bought earlier in the year and started to build a house on. That area was not serviced by the City of Red Deer at that time and very few people had their own water supply. Soon after, we drilled our well the neighbors started to haul water from our place. By the time the City took over and put in water lines, we believe there were over 40 families getting water from our well.

Needing more room for our Water Well Drilling business, we started looking for some place in the country. As a result, we purchased N.E. 31-38-28-W4 from Abe Littaw in 1963 who, I believe, bought it from Arnold Kimball about a year earlier.

In 1965, we built the house we still live in.

In 1968, we bought the N.W. 32-38-28-W4 from the Mike Demas family.

Our family consists of three children:

Lawrence Roy was born September 6, 1951. He attended Grandview, Joseph Welsh, Eastview, River Glen and Lindsay Thurber Comprehensive High School. After finishing high school, he moved to Calgary, returning in 1974 to take a position in our Water Well Drilling Business.

Lawrence married Barbara Hadden from Calgary in 1973. They have two children, David Lawrence, born May 16, 1975, and Nicole Dawn born December 8, 1977.

Lorraine May was born on August 19, 1955. She obtained her education at Joseph Welsh, River Glen, Lindsay Thurber Comprehensive High School, Cosmetology School of Canada and the University of Alberta. She is presently living in Edmonton and employed by Cosmair Canada Inc. of Montreal.

Marlene Lynn was born on August 17, 1957. She attended Joseph Welsh, River Glen, Lindsay Thurber Comprehensive High School and N.A.I.T. At present she is a sales representative in the Stereo Component Dept. of Woodward's, Edmonton.

James Beaumont Gaetz

S ½ 27 38 28 W4

Article from the Red Deer Advocate — Contributed by the Archives Committee as its Centennial project.

Unlike the majority of pioneer settlers coming to the west, who, while actuated by many and various motives, had basically in mind the ultimate benefit to their families or themselves, the lure that beckoned James Beaumont Gaetz, better known as Beau Gaetz, was sheer adventure, and it was a lure that he continued to find irresistible for most of the rest of his life.

He was born in Newfoundland, where his father was then stationed as a missionary, the eldest son of Rev. Joseph and Sarah (Saint) Gaetz, and he came west in 1886, apparently with visions of a carefree and exciting life in the great out of doors. He homesteaded in the Waskasoo district, just south of what later was to be the site of Red Deer, on a quarter section that was later acquired by A. P. Olsen.

However, homesteading was too sedentary an occupation for a person of his temperament, and not long after his brother, Tom, joined him in March, 1887, they decided to try their hands at ranching on the north side of the Red Deer River, about 25 miles downstream, where Tom took up a homestead and pre-emption. When Tom was married and moved to Red Deer in 1896, Beau took over the ranch.

It was probably during one of his periodic visits to Red Deer that a small black bear cub lost his bearings and was found wandering about the north part of town. Several dogs gave chase and the cub sought refuge in a tree approximately where the Salvation Army premises now are located. A crowd quickly gathered and stones were hurled and the tree shaken, but the cub refused to relax his grip. Hearing the hubbub, Beau rode over on his cow pony and in true cowboy style, he roped the little fellow. Disregarding his protests, he was pulled by the rope and urged on from behind by small boys until they reached Frank McBride's hardware store, where he was put on display in the window. He did not, however, prove to be a tractable pet and subsequently had to be destroyed.

The discovery of Klondike opened up a new area of potential excitement for Beau and in 1898 in company with a man named Brooks, he set out to reach it

by the overland route, but by the time that they had reached Spirit River, they recognized the futility of attempting to negotiate all of the water barriers that lay ahead.

Since, however, they had provisions and a prospecting outfit, they decided to explore the area which they had reached, and for a long time they made their way through a wilderness where no other white man had ventured. At last suffering from scurvy and snowblindness, they were found by a band of Indians, sick, temporarily blind and almost out of provisions, wandering helplessly about. They took them to their camp, nursed them back to health, and gave them enough provisions to see them back to civilization. After three years absence, they arrived back in Red Deer, long after they had been given up as dead.

In April, 1907, Beau was appointed brand inspector, and about that time, he and a partner named Chapman, who later entered the employ of the C.P.R., operated a livery business, which was sold to John J. McCaig of Edmonton in May 1908. Subsequently, for many years Beau was in the employ of the government as a guide for exploring parties in the northern and western parts of the province, blazing trails where no white man had ever previously passed. With his rugged constitution, adventurous tendencies and congenial disposition, it was a vocation to which he was admirably suited. His kindly help and co-operation was always available to anyone in need, and one of those who knew him best, eulogized him as "a prince among men".

In 1916, he returned to Red Deer and settled down to farming in the Poplar Ridge district. In 1922, he received a serious head injury from a falling tree which involved a sojourn in hospital.

He had been discharged therefrom to convalesce at the home of the T. A. Gaetz family, when he contracted pneumonia and hospitalization was again necessary. In his weakened condition, this new complication did not respond to treatment and death intervened at the Municipal Hospital on November 19, 1922, at the age of 65 years. He is buried in the Red Deer Cemetery.

Joe Gaetz by daughter Ursela

Joe B. and Marie Gaetz lived on S ½ 27 38 28 W4. Marie's maiden name was Wilton. Joe had been a bookkeeper for his grandfather's store in Red Deer. They came to Poplar Ridge in 1923. Their family dwelling was wooden and very large. It had been moved from Red Deer. About 180 acres was under cultivation and all work on the farm was done with

horses. Their neighbours were Archibalds, McBlanes, McGees and Woofs.

I, Ursela, am the eldest daughter (only) of Joe and Marie Gaetz. I had two brothers. Bill, who died in 1971 and Ray who lives in Calgary with his family.

We attended school at Poplar Ridge from 1927 to 1934 with Pearl Mitchell, Dora Bjelke, Madge Anderson and Helen Neilson as teachers. We walked or rode horseback two and a half miles to school. Winter was difficult because of cold and road conditions but people were real brave in those days and we had great fun. I was fortunate to have had such wonderful teachers. I remember Dora Bjelke having us go in the dirt cellar during a terrific hailstorm because the glass was flying everywhere. My main interest in those days was playing ball and I could run fast. I remember the Christmas concerts mostly and how we practiced for days for that very special night.

My Granddad's cousin, Ray Gaetz came many times to different districts to tell of the Indians for he had the first White Trading Post on the Red Deer Crossing. The natives had a great love for him. My Granddad, Tom Gaetz, was made a Chief of Cree.

We moved to Red Deer in 1934 and I attended school there.

Bill Gennow

Bill Gennow came to Canada sometime in the early 1900's from U.S.A. with his wife who was an Aunt of Levi Miller. They had two boys who attended school at Poplar Ridge. They owned a half section and lived in a log house where Tom Percival's house now stands. He operated a steam engine and did breaking for some of the neighbors and some threshing.

In about 1919 or '20, he sold the farm to Herman Veal. Mrs. Gennow died some time before 1919 and is buried in the Red Deer Cemetery.

Mr. and Mrs. Edmund Gilbert N.E. ¼ 21-38-28-W4

Mr. Gilbert came west from Sherbrooke, Quebec, in 1909. Mrs. Gilbert and daughter, Lois and son, Gerald, followed later with settlers effects. Mr. Gilbert worked for a year or two in a saw mill in Red Deer before they moved to the farm which they purchased from Edward Lee. Ed was a son of E. Lee, the original homesteader of the Jensen place — now the High Ridge Subdivision.

Lois married Herbert Howard and they moved away. Herbert went abroad, possibly Russia, and was never heard from again. Lois died May 24, 1924.

Mr. Gilbert died in April, 1932. Mrs. Gilbert and Gerald moved to Red Deer in 1945 when Dick and



Mrs. and Mr. Gilbert's Golden Wedding Anniversary. Top, L. to R.: Barney Raymer, Mr. Woof, Mrs. Reed, Mrs. Edmundson, Bertha Doig, Mr. Rodgers. Behind: Gerald Gilbert, H. L. Austin, Mrs. Finch, Mrs. Archibald, Mr. Finch. Front row: Mrs. Hunt, Mr. Gilbert, Mrs. Gilbert, 1930.

Pauline Woof bought their farm. Mrs. Gilbert was an invalid and nearly bed ridden by this time. She passed away in 1946 and Gerald died in 1947 following heart trouble.

The Gilberts were good neighbours and highly respected in the district.

Frank and Marie Hannecart

Frank and Marie came from Belgium to the United States, before coming to Poplar Ridge, then returned for a period of time. They came back to Canada in the Poplar Ridge district in 1924.

They made their home on S.W.¼ 30-38-28-W4 where a Mr. Gamache had previously lived.

Frank then purchased the N.E.¼ 28-38-28-W4. This place had been homesteaded by a Mr. Lee in 1902, who then sold to Mr. Bill Hunt. Mr. Hunt sold to Hannicart.

Marie had three daughters: Emily, Elise and Edith, and two boys, Emil and Elzce from a previous marriage.

A son, Raymond, was born to them in 1916. He



Raymond, Wealtha and Edith Hannecart, Frank Mitchell after storm, 1951.

married a local girl, Edith Kirkland, and they also farmed in this district. Raymond died in 1968.

Frank worked in coal mines in Belgium, Coleman, B.C., Nordegg, and Horburg.

He farmed until 1944, then sold out to John Warren.

Frank had built a house on the place when he first came, which is still standing. It was very small.

John Warren built the larger, modern home which is there today.

The Hannecarts moved to Sylvan Lake and are both buried there.

Hannett, Arthur and Hazel

I was born in New Hampshire, U.S.A., in 1910. My folks, Charles and Isabel Hannett (nee Fuller), came to Canada in October, 1910. We moved to Saskatchewan in 1915. I took my schooling in Rocanville, Saskatchewan. We moved to Duncan, B.C., in 1937.

I was in the R.C.A. 15 Coastal Battery on Search Lights from October, 1942, to January 8, 1945. I married Hazel Anderson of Rose Valley, Saskatchewan, in December, 1943. She was in the Forces from 1942 to 1944.

In July, 1949, we came to Red Deer. From April, 1950, to September, '51, we worked for Hal Thompson and from September to March, 1952, we worked for Mr. Wm. Woof. We worked on various farms and from April, 1953, to April, 1956, I was employed by Sims Auction Mart. In April, 1956, I went to work at the R.C.A.F. Base at Penhold, retiring in October, 1974. We have lived in Innisfail since April, 1963.

We have four children: Ronald Dilbert born December 20, 1944. Ron and Susan Close were married in Edson. They live at Fox Creek. Ron works for Hudson Bay Gas and Oil. They have two children: Kimberley Ann and Brian Kevin.

Inez Lorraine born January, 1947, is a Pharmacist and lives in Calgary.

Charles Lloyd born May 31, 1951. He works at Johns Manville in Innisfail and lives in town.

Glenda Rose born December 9, 1957. She married Jim Harris. He works for Flint Construction at Whitecourt. They have two boys: Jeffory Allen and Mark.

Ron and Inez went to school at Poplar Ridge.

In 1955, we bought part of NW 15-38-28-W4 being 10 acres from Roy Archibald and sold it in 1956 to Art Philips.

On Halloween 1955, we had our first snowstorm of the year and the next morning the drifts were eight feet high in the trees by the slough north of the house. We weren't able to get out by the north road all winter. The south road was also closed much of the

time and we left our car at George Wright's and walked home. I worked at the Auction Mart while we lived there.

The March blizzard of 1951 is one I'll never forget. We were living at Hal Thompson's. Hal and Ailie had gone to Calgary and weren't able to return. The milk truck wasn't able to come so we skimmed the cream off the cans and fed the milk to the pigs. On the Saturday, Ernie Johnston and I took eleven 8-gallon cans of milk with the team and sleigh across the field to Geo. Roth's gate then followed the road allowance on top of the three- to four-foot drifts to Ben Roth's where we met the milk truck. George Schilltroth was ahead of the milk truck with his snow plow. We took the empty cans back to Hal when we returned. Hal and Ailie got back as far as Geo. Roths and walked home dragging their suitcases on a hand sleigh.

Kaj Hansen Family

Kaj Hansen Family bought the NW¼ 2-39-28-W4 from Frank and Enid Mitchell in 1957. They came from Denmark with a desire to settle and farm in the last great frontier of the west and raise a family in a land of many opportunities and much freedom.

There was a two story farm house on the property possibly built by Ed Martin about 1900. There were 125 acres under cultivation. John MacDonald, Edith and Ray Hannecart, and Chris and Evelyn Peterson were their closest neighbours. They had the first telephone on that road in 1964. The Calgary Power came in 1960.

The boys attended Poplar Ridge School with Sam Davidson teaching them. They later went to River Glen.

Mrs. Hansen's maiden name was Lysemose.

Soren and his wife Bonnie have a daughter, Dana Lee. They have an Auto Body Shop in Red Deer.



Kaj Hansen, spring, 1958.

Martin farms in Bentley.

Jack and Connie have a son, Warren, and a daughter, Christine. They farm in Leedale.

Sam Hart Family

by Lavina L. Boyden

Sam Hart was born August 7, 1875 at Grande Ligne, Quebec. His wife, Melinda Peron, was also born there on October 15, 1868. They came west on March 18, 1916, and made their home in Poplar Ridge on SE ¼ 2-39-28-W4.

Mama and five daughters came by train to Edmonton. When we got to Edmonton, us children got a real scare; we saw our first Indians and thought we were going to be scalped; so left our benches and luggage and ran to Mama at the wicket. The agent assured us they were good Indians and would harm no one.

Papa and my two younger brothers came by train in a boxcar with all our possessions and three horses, one colt, a Holstein cow and the family watchdog, (a vicious little black Terrier).

Sam went through University at the big La Fleur Mission. Grade Six was the same as Grade Eight out west. Boys and girls were never allowed any conversation on the school grounds at the University. The grounds were divided by tall wire fences; if one was caught talking to someone on the other side they were punished.

We stayed at Papa's sister Lily's until the one-room shack with a loft for sleeping was ready. It was next to Bill Atkins. I did not go with them but stayed with Aunt Lily Hart and Uncle Fred from March 18 till October and went to the Cross Road School near Mr. Bill Hazlets.

Aunt Lily, Papa's sister, met us at the Station as Uncle Fred was a carpenter and he was working away then. Papa was also a carpenter and built most of the new home. Both boys grew up carpenters.

It was Papa's sister Lily's description of the west and the wide open place, and freedom to do as one wished that made the family come west. In the east we were forced to learn French. We four older girls learned French which we detested. Only the second oldest girl, Hilda, kept up her French when we came west. I could write and speak French fluently in Grade Four. The three younger ones did not have to learn French. My youngest brother Harry (Bud) started school in Poplar Ridge.

While staying at Aunt Lily's, Papa and Mama went to Red Deer. When they came back Mama was horrified to see her children dressed as Indians instead of dresses and white pinafores as in the East. Papa had a good laugh. We had plucked the tail feathers off the chickens and turkeys and put them in

our hair and started war hooping and dancing as our cousin, Lillie, was doing. Lillie, Aunt Lily and Uncle Fred's daughter, was the one who chartered the play. Mama said, "Sam, we had better go back east as the children are already becoming savages." I'll always remember the expression on Mama's face. Mama had spent much of her early life in Boston as a Governess for two small children of wealthy people. She tried to keep us in white; even the boys, but soon found she couldn't keep up with it: out west children played as they wished. Baseball, football, basketball, instead of cricket. How good it felt to be free of eastern customs. Papa worked in a big hotel in Boston as a Bell Hop in a Red Uniform. When he was seventeen, he left home as my Grandpa Hart was for old English ways. All the older children must be married before the younger ones. He also chose the husbands for his daughters, one sister never married. Papa was 23 when he returned home and married Melinda Peron in 1898.

A few years after we came to the farm, we bought more horses, some cattle, a few more cows, chickens and turkeys. Papa was always a farmer after he got married. He was born on a farm.

Our neighbours were Bill Atkins. Uncle Ed Martins, Uncle Fred Brownrigg, Uncle Jim Murphy, Papa's sister's daughter, Uncle Harry Strong and Aunt Mathilda, and the Staples. Later Uncle Fred sold his farm to George Ward. Ed sold to Mr. Finch and Uncle Harry sold to Frank Henske (later sold to Jim Anderson).

Mr. Finch was a real Englishman and we had a good laugh as he came when Papa was away and said, "I came to tell you, we will not buy the coo" (which was for cow).

We had no telephone nor tractor nor car while I was home. Aunt Mathilda had a phone.

I got my schooling at Poplar Ridge. The teachers were: Miss Anna Anderson, Miss Flood, Mr. Crummy (a war veteran), and Mr. Maddason.

Dad bought a car in the mid 20's before they went to Salte Prairie. They then moved to Enilda to reside until their passing.

I liked the schools up west. I was interested in all kinds of sports, Art and writing, and took first prize in Art at 10 years of age in the East, first prize in Alberta in Art at the Red Deer Country Fair, pastel drawing, no pencil or lines used. I used to draw all the Christmas, Halloween, etc., decorations on the school blackboard.

Got a first prize for a limeric after I got married.

My name is dilly dill

I live in a crooked little house.

On a slippery little hill

with a crooked little mouse

If not gone there still.

Won free schooling at Olds School for highest mark in our division for poems, songs, and prayers.

I was a Sunday School teacher and later a leader of a teenage girls' group at our church — used to drive or ride eight miles in to Red Deer.

In spare time cared for the elderly folks. I always wanted to be a nurse. As things were hard and Papa was not well then I went out as a milk maid in the summer time till late fall. I also worked for Joe Finlay, the Banker's wife, caring for one little three-year-old and did a little house work.

My sister, Doris, and I trained our own saddle ponies for riding. I entered a six-month calf in the fair. You could drive her like a horse, make her kneel down or stand on her hind legs trying to reach a treat we offered her. Got a prize for her training. Ester Staples also took prizes.

We weren't bothered with Indians but agents were a nuisance so whenever Mama went to see her Great Uncle Edmund at Aunt Mathilda Strong's we always took the watchdog in the shack and locked the door. Two men came with a horse and buggy and insisted on us letting them in so we let the little dog loose. Did they ever have to run for their lives. Good thing the dog went after the horse and made it run away just as they got into the buggy. Half a mile down the road the dog was still biting the horse's heels.

Papa was on the school board for a few years.

We had to call our parents Papa and Mama till we were 16 years old, then it was Father and Mother. Years later, when I came home from work I called him Dad but it was always Mother.

Mrs. A. Milne is my first cousin and her granddaughter Linda is married to Alen Dahl of Lousana.

On June 2, 1926, I was united in marriage to Edward Boyden and came to Lousana to reside on a farm. Edward passed away on June 18, 1962. I remained on the farm until 1969. The Doctor said I must move off the farm so I reside in the Hamlet of Lousana. My son, Bernie, stays with me.

Samuel and Melinda Hart married in 1898. Family:

Edith — married Wilf Pershbacher and resides in Lumby, B.C.

Hilda — married Otto Comes, now deceased.

Twins: Lavina — married Ed Boyden, resides in Lousana. Lorna — died in infancy.

Doris — married Clifford Franklin, resides in Dawson Creek, B.C.

Eveline — unmarried, resides in Surrey, B.C.

Wallace — married Nellie, resides in Grande Prairie.

Harry — married Margaret, resides in Enilda, Alberta.

Lavina (Hart) and Ed Boyden married June 2, 1926. Family:

Samuel (Bud) born April 7, 1927

Harry (Bernie) born Feb. 4, 1929

Doris born April 28, 1930

Dorothy born Oct. 27, 1932

Marjorie born July 6, 1936

Jean born March 13, 1939

Leah born June 13, 1940

Donna born Nov. 18, 1945

Samuel (Bud) married three times. First two wives deceased. At present lives with wife, Sharon, in Prince George, B.C., with ten children.

Harry (Bernie) — single — resides in Lousana with his mother.

Doris married Maurice Hutchison on Aug. 19, 1949, resides in Surrey, B.C., two-children.

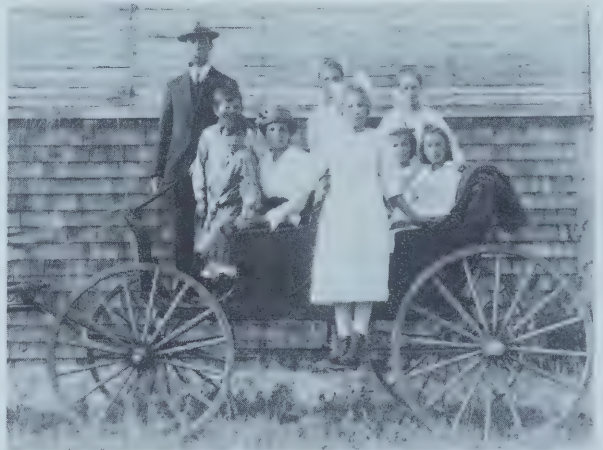
Dorothy married Stan Gleason on October 15, 1955. Resides in Russell, Ontario with two children.

Marjorie married Dave Clutton on Oct. 22, 1955. Resides at Red Deer, Alberta, with five children.

Jean married Frank Johnson on July 6, 1957. Resides on farm at Bellgrove, Alberta, with five children.

Leah married Glenn Clutton on May 3, 1958. Resides at Pine Lake, Alberta, with two children.

Donna married Larry Brenner on Jan. 23, 1971. Resides at Prince George, B.C., with two children.



Sam Hart, Wallace, Harry, Mrs. Hart, Edith, Doris, Eveline, Lavina. Hilda in front. By the barn.

Hart, Walter and Mary

Walter Hart, son of Henry and Minnie Hart, was born in 1894 on the N.E. ¼ 6-39-27-W4th. Walter attended Crossroads School and his name appears on the first school register.

In 1915, Walter took Mary Neilson as his bride. Mary also attended Crossroads School. Mary was

born in Montana in 1895 and came with her father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Neilson, to settle the N.W. of 6-39-27-W4th.

They started farming in that year on the original homestead. The first crop consisted of oats and barley on about 30 acres. All Walter's land was cleared by hand except for about 40 acres which was broken in later years with machinery.

Walter had a mixed farming operation with cattle and hogs until 1933 when he went straight grain farming. They farmed with horses until 1919 when they purchased a brand new 15-30 Waterloo Boy (John Deere) tractor. Their first threshing machine was a Case separator, hand-fed with a straw carrier. The engine was a Fair Banks Morse, 12-horsepower, portable that had to be pulled from farm to farm with horses. He used this outfit for about 25 years on his threshing run around the district. A good day threshed about a thousand bushels. With a run of about 15 days, he would thresh for about 20 people each fall, most people having 30 or 40 acres to thresh.

In 1919, threshing price was three cents a bushel for oats, four cents for barley and five cents for wheat. Grain yields were about 25 bushels for wheat, 30-35 bushels for barley and 40-50 bushels for oats.

Walter owned a 20-inch John Deere breaking plow with a power lift. He did some custom breaking for the neighbors charging ten dollars an acre.

In 1938, Walter and Mary moved to the Poplar Ridge district where they purchased the Sam Hart farm, the S.E. of 2-39-28-W4th.

Harvey, Fred and Daisy

Fred and Daisy and their three children, Margaret, Joan, and Ross, moved to Poplar Ridge from Strathmore, Alberta, in August, 1939, just a few days before World War II started. We lived in the old Joe Gaetz house which was purchased from Harry Christie. This house was moved out from Red Deer across the Red Deer River and was certainly air conditioned — the wind blew freely through many cracks and the log barn was, in our eyes, most unique! Close neighbors at that time were Mrs. Revyrand, Gertie Jarvis, Jack Thompson, Dunc McBlane, Bertha Doig and Wm. Woof.

Being prairie people it was hard for us to adjust to the closed in feeling of having so many trees and brush all around us. It didn't help when the three children developed whooping cough a few days after arriving and we were all quarantined for a month! However, it didn't take Fred long to get in gear and Indians were hired from Hobbema to clear brush and harvest help was available from the Army Camp. Neighbors in this area have always pitched in and

helped one another and as fathers were unavailable for weeks at a time during harvest, wives and daughters carried on at home.

Fun was homemade and we looked forward to the dances in the old hall on the Sylvan Lake highway and Christmas concerts were a real social highlight to us, the girls especially as it meant a new dress. Lunch at any function was always supplied by the ladies and from our part of the district, we travelled together to push through snow in winter and that horrible clay in the rain.

We had a phone put in shortly after we moved here which was put in the back hall where the outside door was never locked in case some neighbor wished to use it.

We are grateful for the excellent teachers we had: Helen Neilson (now Mrs. Bob Farewell), Mrs. Mabel Nash, Mr. Matthias, Audrey Schaefer (Mrs. Geo. Braithwaite), Eileen White, Miss Nadine Haluschuk, (Morrison), Ed Barnett, and Mr. Sam Davidson. In the winter, we travelled to school in a cutter pulled by faithful old Sally, and we were covered completely with a buffalo robe. When the sleigh bells stopped ringing, we knew we had arrived. Our education was completed in Red Deer where we stayed in the dormitory. We made our spending money in those days during the spring when we collected magpie eggs and feet which was a disaster for No. 1 son when he fell out of a tree and broke his arm and ankle. Our school was never lacking in sports and Poplar Ridge was well known for whomping other neighboring schools!

In 1946, we built a new home and oh that glorious running water, electricity and indoor plumbing. Fred was instrumental in getting Rural Electrification, was a Trustee on the Hospital Board and School Board and Daisy was active in the W.I. and helping elderly shut-ins in the district at that time. We were all active at St. Luke's Anglican Church.



Ross, Daisy, Fred Harvey, Marg Whyte, Joan Johnston. Fred and Daisy's 50th Wedding Anniversary, January 18, 1977.

Margaret trained as a Secretary, is married to Andy Whyte from Red Deer and they have three children, Reg, Valerie, and Susan. They presently reside on part of the home quarter.

Joan trained as a nurse and married Alvin Johnstone from Red Deer, who is in the Dairy industry. They have two children, Nancy and Jeffrey, and reside in Red Deer.

Ross carried on the farming tradition and lives in Poplar Ridge on part of what was known as the old school section. He married Bunny McKeown from Red Deer and they have four children: David, Patty, Jackie, and Andy.

Fred and Daisy now reside in Red Deer having sold the farm in 1967 to Margaret and Andy. At that time Fred had a severe arthritic condition, however, his interest has always been in farming and continues even to this day helping Ross with spring and harvest work. Holidays were hard to come by for farmers in the old days but Daisy and Fred are now getting their enjoyment and relaxation by spending the winter months in their mobile home in Arizona. They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 1977. We are all pleased to still reside in this area and feel fortunate to still be associated with Poplar Ridge.

Fred Harvey's brand is FH 1r and Ross Harvey's brand is ℱ 1r.

Harvey, Ross and Bunny

In 1939, at the age of three years, Ross moved with his parents, Fred and Daisy, sisters, Margaret and Joan, from Strathmore to Red Deer and settled in the Poplar Ridge district. Ross attended the Poplar Ridge school from Grades Two to Nine. He was sent home from school in Grade One because there weren't enough children starting school. He, therefore, took Grade One by correspondence. His mother was his teacher. He took Grades 10, 11, and 12 in Red Deer where he stayed at the old dormitories, which were the old army huts. Upon completion of high school, Ross had been accepted at the University of North Dakota on a hockey scholarship. However, at that time, his Dad was severely handicapped with Arthritis and was unable to carry on the duties of farming, so Ross remained at home to operate the farm, consequently this was the end of his college aspirations. This was a turn of events that was to see Ross remain on the farm thereafter.

In 1960, Ross married the former Daphne Jean McKeown (Bunny). Bunny was the daughter of Jack and Peggy McKeown of Red Deer. Having moved to Red Deer right after the Second World War, the population was a mere 3,000. The McKeowns lived in the old Inspector MacLeans house on Michener Hill, which at that time was "Out in the sticks". Jack

McKeown was a journeyman lineman with the City of Red Deer for 25 years. Peggy was a 1930 graduate nurse from the Calgary General Hospital and worked in Red Deer in many fields of nursing.

Bunny Harvey was a 1959 graduate of the Edmonton General Hospital. Her nursing career in Red Deer included: maternity, surgery, and special duty nursing. Three of her special duty patients were Aillie, Beth and Hal Thompson. She also met many neighboring farmers while employed as Industrial Nurse at Intercontinental Packers. In 1961, Ross and Bunny moved into their new home. This home half section was purchased from Mr. William Woof, S.½ 29-38-28-W4th. We later purchased a quarter from Mr. Henry Ward, N.E.¼ 30-38-28, and in 1968 we purchased another quarter from Fred Harvey. Our farming operation consists mainly of grain, hay, and cow-calf operation. As a historical point of interest, a portion of the original wagon trail used by Indians and settlers moving west to the Rockies runs through our property.

Ross and Bunny have four children: David Ross born in 1960, Patricia Margaret in 1961, Jacquelynn Gail in 1962, and Andrew McKeown in 1964. The children were active in 4-H for a few years which proved to be a very good experience for them, especially the girls as it taught them how to handle cattle which is usually a job delegated to boys. David, Patty, and Jackie all graduated from Lindsay



Back: Patty, Bunny, Ross, Andy. Front: David and Jackie, 1981.

Thurber Comprehensive High School and Andy is completing the eleventh grade. David is presently employed by the City of Red Deer Parks Department and the Burnt Lake Auction Mart. Patty will be attending the University of Alberta, Education this fall and Jackie is with the Advocate.

How well I remember those first few years as a "City Girl" turned country. Such things as thinking that the grain was the "Stuff" that came flying out behind the combine. Then there was the problem of country driving — when the road was muddy, slipping into the ditch on a somewhat regular basis and during winter getting totally buried in snow drifts. However, there was always a friendly, willing, neighbor to pull me out. Hal Thompson once remarked in jest that a rotating red light should be mounted atop my car so that when I was in difficulty I could simply turn on the light and save myself a half mile walk for help.

Ross has always been an avid sportsman. His first love is hockey. In 1948, he was on the team that won the Alberta Bantam A championship. He also played for the Lacombe Rockets, Innisfail Oilers and Rocky Rams. He presently plays with the Red Deer Capri Old-Timers.

Haslam, Monty Lee and Connie Nesha (Anderson) N.E. 32-38-28-W4th.

In July of 1973, we moved to this area with our five children: Debbie, Gary, Jim, Ray, and Linda from Cardston in southern Alberta. A relative was able to find us an acreage so we looked it over, decided we liked it and were able to make arrangements for it. The land belonged to Evan Robinson at the time. We brought up our livestock (cattle, pigs and horses) and furniture and settled in.

That winter was an unusually snowy season and we were blamed by our neighbors for bringing that with us too. These neighbours were Louis and Nita Maga who became very dear friends to us. The kids rode the bus to River Glen School. We lived on this place for about two years then moved into town.

The Hughes, Wayne and Charlotte and Family

I was first introduced to the Poplar Ridge Community in the Spring of 1978 when our land survey firm was engaged in a subdivision of part of the S.E. ¼ 33-38-28-4 — The Wentworth quarter.

We visited this location several times during the summer and winter of that year, liked it, and as a result purchased Lot 6, Block 1, Poplar Ridge Estates in January, 1979. We broke soil for our new home in

September and moved in on December 15 of that year.

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Hunt

Mr. Hunt came from England to the Poplar Ridge district in the year 1900. He owned a section of land. He first settled on N.W. ¼ 28-38-28-W4, the other parcel was S½ 33-38-28-W4. He later built a large two storey house on the last location in about 1923 which still is in use. Part of this last location has been subdivided in 1979.



Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Hunt, 1929.

Bill was a Boer war veteran.

Jane Hunt was born in Ireland. She worked as a waitress in a San Francisco city hotel. She served John D. Rockefeller many times. There is where Mr. Hunt met her. Jane had a great sense of humor and a heart of gold. She enjoyed telling fortunes with cards, did palm and tea cup reading.

They both loved to play cards and Jane enjoyed wrapping a big onion or turnip in fancy wrappings and give it out as a booby prize.

They had no family.

Bill was a good farmer and made his living by growing grain, milking a few cows and raising a few pigs. Farming was done with horses.

Jack Moore who still lives in Poplar Ridge worked for Bill the summer of 1929. He tells at that time Bill had an 18 inch grain separator which was run by a Ford tractor which he used to do his own threshing and neighbours as well. He usually had a run of about fifteen days.

Mr. and Mrs. Hunt moved to Creston, B.C., in 1946 and retired there.

They are buried in Creston.

Harold and Jim Brackney bought three quarters. Frank Hannecart bought the other quarter.

The Huss Story of the Poplar Ridge District as told by Willie Huss

In 1927, Willibald Huss purchased the S.E. and N.W. ¼ of Sec. 11, Twp. 39, Range 28, at a public auction of school lands held in Red Deer. The N.W. ¼ was bought for \$16.00 an acre and the S.E. ¼ for \$12.00 an acre. This land was completely virgin and was practically all bush and timber. The only improvement was a two wire fence around the outside perimeter of the section as neighbors had used it for pasture.



Willie Huss breaking with a Galloway tractor, about 1933.

The slow process of clearing fence lines began with axes as each quarter had to be fenced. By 1933, the N.W. ¼ had been cleared and broken. The clearing was done with a horse drawn brush cutter type saw pulled with eight head of horses. The blade slicing through the surface of the ground disturbed many hornets nests which caused many run-aways of the horses. Not only did men and horses suffer from the stings of the insects but much time was spent repairing harness and equipment. The gathering, piling, burning and grubbing of the big trees was mostly done by New Canadians who came from all over Europe at that time. Breaking was done by plow and gas tractor.

When the depression came, the clearing of more land waned considerably, therefore, the S.E. ¼ was not completely broken. Grain was of little value,

gasoline was hard to come by as money was scarce. From this time on, clearing was done with an axe and the field work was done with horses until the early 1940's.

Water was hard to find and my father and helpers dug seven wells over a period of five years before they struck a stream of water only 12 feet deep near the S.E. corner of the S.E. quarter. This, then, was to be the building site of the farm.

In 1936, my father and mother and myself left the farm they had been renting and moved to their new home in Poplar Ridge. Two granaries were moved side by side and we cooked and ate in one and slept in the other. Cows were milked outside in a corral. That summer, the construction of a new house began which took several years to finish.

In 1937, I took my grade eight in the old Poplar Ridge school with Miss Helen Neilson as teacher. This was the last year of my schooling and I have been farming ever since.

My teenage years in Poplar Ridge are memorable ones and I made many friends. The work was hard but I also had many pastimes, my favorite being the breaking of horses. As my friends know, I spent hundreds of miles in the saddle.

The Poplar Ridge Sports Club was another chapter of my life I will never forget. Meetings were held monthly at members homes with a business meeting followed by entertainment and lunch. We planned and had plays, wiener roasts and singsongs, ball games, card parties and dances.

It was those good times of fellowship among the people of Poplar Ridge I shall always remember.

I married Georgina Brownell of Knee Hill Valley in Red Deer, July 9, 1948. Ena was a member of the Poplar Ridge W.I. from 1948-50. We then moved to a farm east of Lacombe where we still reside. Our family is one son, Keith, who married Ella Atsinger in Lacombe, June 17, 1978. Keith has three step-children: Kendall, Ronald and Kayrn Atsinger. They reside and farm east of Lacombe.

My father sold his farm in 1958 to Percy Belich where he and his family reside.

Father and Mother retired to Sylvan Lake in 1948, where he passed away in 1964 and Mother now resides in Valley Park Manor in Red Deer.

The Don Jano Family of Poplar Ridge Estates

by Bev Jano

Don Jano was born and raised in Calgary, came to Red Deer where he met and married Bev Van Eaton (Jano). I was born in Lacombe, raised in Haynes. At the age of five, moved to Red Deer with my parents,

Maudie and Willard, three brothers: Arnold, Lawrence and Norman. Willard (father), Norman (brother) since deceased.

After our marriage, Don worked for a pipeline company, F.P.C. Construction and Western Stress Relief. In 1976, he started his own diesel repair, "D.J. Diesel".

In selling our house in Red Deer, we came to meet a man who could talk the leg off an elephant. His name, Ray Bertram, who later sold us our lot in Poplar Ridge Estates. While in the process of building our house, friends from Brooks, Joe and Helen Cartier loved the Poplar Ridge area and later bought a lot from Ray. Between Don and Joe, they decided to become real carpenters and cut their own cedar shakes for both houses. Joe, who was a welder, built a mill saw for cutting shakes. This saw stood about 8' high: special blades had to be bought in B.C. After many weeks of cutting, trimming, and a small case of cedar poisoning from sawdust, our house was taking shape. Between picking rocks and pulling thistles there was still time to watch the wildlife. From pheasants, who enjoyed walking on the roof to lazy porcupines who love to share their quills with the neighbors' dogs.

On May 9, 1980, we moved and became residents at Poplar Ridge Estates with our two sons, Steven — 15, and Kevin — 13, both born in Red Deer. They now attend River Glen School. Both boys love to cross-country ski and snowmobile.

Unfortunately, Joe Cartier did not have the opportunity to build his house on the lot he bought in Poplar Ridge Estates. He suffered a heart attack and passed away December 29, 1979, at the age of 41 years. His wife, Helen, and two children, Tim and Tammy, continue to live in Brooks. They still own the lot they had bought and may yet someday build a home here.

Jarvis Family History

My family background:

My father, George Cleveland Jarvis, was born in Norton, Kansas, U.S.A. He came to Canada to the Grassy Lake area in 1910 and then to Central Alberta area. In 1934, my father came to the Poplar Ridge area where he resided until his passing in 1939. My mother, Gertrude Alea Archibald, came from Georgetown, Ontario, in 1899 with her parents, David and Sarah Archibald, one brother — Roy, and a stepbrother — Ernie, two sisters — Ada and Myrtle.

My father's occupation before coming to Poplar Ridge was farming. My mother was a telephone operator in Saganaugh, Michigan, for about a year.

When she returned to Poplar Ridge, she married my father in 1920 at Red Deer.

My mother, father, and brother, Earl, and I moved to the homestead, N.E. ¼ of 22-38-28-W4 of David Morrison and Sarah Archibald in 1934. My Dad wanted the opportunity to own a farm and also to raise Percheron horses. He had the first Percheron Stallion in that area and took pride in raising horses.

The first year we lived in a four-room log house that was built by my grandfather Archibald in 1899. Then my grandfather Archibald, along with the help of my Dad built a four-bedroom house in 1935. The old log house was then torn down.

There was approximately 60 acres under cultivation which my Dad farmed with horses. They used horses and a car for transportation and they used the Burnt Lake Trail to get to Red Deer.

In 1936, my Dad and Mother adopted a baby girl named Darlene. My mother kept busy sewing clothes, knitting, gardening, housework and also helping with the chores. Her favorite hobby was sewing and making quilts.

Our neighbors were Jack Thompson, Billie Stewart, Dunc McBlane, and George Theakston.

I attended the Poplar Ridge School from 1934-38. My teacher was Miss Neilson. The school was a one-room house, heated by a wood stove. Grades one to eight were taught there. The sports we played were softball in the summer and skating in the winter. Church was also held in the schoolhouse. I rode horseback to school for three miles.

A picnic was always held around the first of July. There was lots of homemade ice cream, salads, and pies. All kinds of games were played such as the wheelbarrow race, sack race, relay race, and an egg race. These games were enjoyed by young and old.

The big event was dances every Friday night at the Poplar Ridge Hall on the Sylvan Lake Highway. The two different orchestras that played were Mike Demas and Harry Binning. At some dances Myrtle Gehrke played piano and Millard Austin played the violin. They really made the rafters ring.

Card parties were also held at the school.

In March, 1938, Phillip Besse and I rode our horses to a horse sale in Red Deer. It was a sunny morning when we left home. Later on in the afternoon, when we left the Pavilion, a bad snowstorm had come up. It was snowing and blowing so bad we stopped at Mrs. Bone's place and borrowed coats and hats. On the way home we nearly froze.

The farmers usually worked together to saw wood and also at threshing time. George Theakston

had the saw outfit. He lived two miles west of our farm. Hal Thompson owned the threshing machine and he did his own threshing and ours. Fred Carter worked for us for four years until 1937. He was the only hired man we had there.

The war years were quite tough for us. My Dad was killed in a car accident at Red Deer in 1939. Then two years later Darlene became ill and passed away at five and a half years old. My brother, Earl, married Dot Besse in 1940. Earl then served in the army for five years. I stayed on the farm with my Mother and farmed. We raised cattle, pigs, chickens, and grain. We milked eight cows and sold cream. When Earl came back from the army, Dot and him bought the farm and farmed there for several years and then he sold to Mr. Metz. Earl and Dot moved to B.C. Later they moved to California.



George C. Jarvis, Gertrude A., Cecil A. (standing), Earl C. Jarvis, about 1932.



Front: Cecil and Heather Jarvis, Kevin, Verna, Wade and Carolyn, May, 1980

George Cleveland Jarvis — Jan. 10, 1893 to 1939.
Gertrude Alea Jarvis — June 22, 1896 to 1974.
Earl Jarvis — Feb. 21, 1921 to 1964.
Cecil Jarvis — May 9, 1922.
Darlene Jarvis — 1936 to 1941.

Earl Jarvis married Dorothy L. Besse in 1940. They had two sons: Lyle Earl Jarvis — 1942, and Ronald George Jarvis — 1941. Lyle married a girl named Minta in California. They have three sons and two daughters. Ronald Jarvis married Rose Marie Sillette in California. They have one daughter and one son. They live at Los Angeles, California.

Cecil Jarvis married Heather Erickson of Drayton Valley, Alberta, Nov. 23, 1957. They have two sons and two daughters:

Verna Mae — April 15, 1958.
Kevin Roy — May 31, 1959.
Wade Allen — April 14, 1962.
Carolyn Marie — Jan. 13, 1965.

Cecil also has a son from a previous marriage. Russell Barry — April 30, 1945. Russel Jarvis married Marlene Willson, Feb., 1965. They have a son, Terry, born July 12, 1965. Russel, Marlene, Terry, reside in Edmonton. Verna Jarvis married Dennis Lidstone, March 31, 1979. They reside in Calgary, Alberta. Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Jarvis, Kevin, Wade, and Carolyn reside in Sundre, Alberta.

The Jensen Family

Mr. Christian Jensen came from Denmark and lived in U.S.A. before coming to Alberta, where he farmed in the Buffalo Lake Hills.

Barbara Bain, arrived in Alberta in May, 1914, to visit for a holiday with relatives before going back to Scotland but war broke out in August, 1914, which changed her plans. Eventually, they were married and lived in Buffalo Lake district for some time. The farm was sold then and they moved Eastward. During those years, two sons, Jim and Don were born.



Jensen Brothers farmstead.

In 1929, they moved west of Ponoka and rented a farm for two years. Then they bought three quarter sections from C.P.R. which was all raw land. They broke 350 acres during the 37 years they were there, putting up all the buildings and had excellent gardens of apples, plums and small fruit.

In 1966, they sold out and came to Red Deer to live on the old Hannecart farm which Mr. John Warren had farmed — NE¼ 28-38-28.

Mr. Jensen passed away in 1955.

Mrs. Jensen has been keeping the home going along with her two sons.

Johansen, Knud and Dorothy (Duhamel) N.W. 34-38-28-W4th

Knud Johansen was born in Vejle, Denmark, on July 20, 1905. He was the oldest son in a family of nine children, who's father was a butcher. In his early teens, he left school to go out to work on farms, commuting by bicycle from his Grandfather's home where he lived. At the age of 23, he decided to emigrate to Canada, "the land of golden opportunity." He arrived at Halifax in early March in 1928 after an eleven day "voyage of seasickness", only to come face to face with our cold Canadian winter. He was forced to part with all but ten dollars of his meager savings to buy warmer clothing and a train ticket to continue his journey to Alberta. With lifted spirits, he headed westward and experienced for the first time the visual expanse and beauty of his adopted country. He met a man named Alfred Andersen and together they registered at the Danish Consulate in Camrose. They were given farm jobs, the first of many, before they had worked their way north and purchased adjoining homesteads west of Dapp. They built a small log shack and jointly broke 30 acres the first year. They worked there for two years before Knud decided to return south, working at what he could find along the way.

He came to the Red Deer area in 1937 where he worked at harvesting and hauling wood. He met Dorothy Duhamel of the Crossroads district and they were married in the fall of 1939. Dorothy was born in Sudbury, Ontario, on March 5, 1923, and moved west with her family to the Wetaskiwin area in 1928 where she started school. Her family moved north and homesteaded in the Peace River country and came to settle in the Crossroads district in 1935.

Knud and Dorothy's first home was a converted one-room chicken house on the Jack Roth farm. They also lived in the George Theakston house below the Reveyrand place before purchasing five acres from the municipality. They welcomed their first two daughters, Mary in 1942 and Betty in 1943. The acreage was sold to Wilhelms and another five acres

purchased on which Mike Belich built their home. Then in 1944 I arrived, Ruth. Dad, by this time, was working at the Red Deer Co-op under the management of Mr. England. He became a charter member of the Red Deer Community Credit Union (now the Parkland Savings and Credit Union), when it was incorporated in 1944 and was elected to the Loan Committee. Some years later, he served a term as Promotional Manager. He was very proud to have shared some early responsibility in this organization and to watch it grow from its original 18 members to over 25,000.

He was given the opportunity to manage his own Co-op Store in Fawcett, Alberta, so once again our family prepared to move. It was in Fawcett that we met the McGillivray family, some of whom we were to know again in Red Deer.

We returned to Red Deer in 1947 and purchased a home on the south hill. It was while living there that, at age four, I decided to embark on a career of wood splitting at our neighbour's and almost cut a big toe off.

The following year this home was traded on the North Hill Store. Dad continued to work at the Co-op while Mom ran the store, looked after three daughters and had their next two children; John in 1949 and Grace in 1950. Some of Mom's family helped out when they could and she hired Dot Smith for awhile. It was a very busy life. She somehow found time to complete her art lessons by correspondence and received her diploma in 1948. She won four "Certificate of Merit" awards in poster contests and was invited to view them in New York, an invitation she reluctantly declined to accept. We are all very proud of her talent and achievements as an artist.

Mary, Betty, and I started our education at St. Joseph's Convent. Mary began school with Alphonse Alain whose family became lifelong friends. Betty was anxious to show her little sister the way to school and took me at noon the first day to show me the



Midway Service Station.

playground below the hill. We played, lost in our own world while the time whizzed by and the bell rang unheeded. Eventually, the search began and the R.C.M.P. were called to assist. We didn't try that again.

In the winter we walked to school and slid down the big hill on our return home. When we were able to hold onto the sometime "hot cardboard" we would be half way before we slid to a stop and gleefully, but wet, walked the remainder of the way home.

Dad suffered a light stroke in 1950 and was forced to give up his job with the Co-Op. In the spring of 1951, the store was sold to Mr. Labar. Dad then purchased Midway Service in Poplar Ridge from J. D. McGillivray. We shared our new home with J. D. and Violet and their children, Darlene and Donald, until they had their plans finalized and moved on. The house had been moved in by Mr. Revesz and with our growing family an addition was soon planned. Two bedrooms were built onto the east side by Steve Biswanger. The walls were found to be full of wheat. Steve also began building a cottage east of our home. Dad bought an old house from Ben Roth and had it moved onto a site east of the cottage. Mr. and Mrs. Art Flater were the first of many to rent that house over the years. Steve, with the help of Ernie Johnson, also built a room onto the station. It was really a garage from which bulk oil and gas were sold. Only a small stock of groceries were kept for resale.

Tragedy struck on December 11, 1952; the store caught fire and burned to the ground. Dad was able to save the car, while Mom's only thought was to extinguish the fire. She tried in vain and had to be pulled away from the blaze. Clara Sparks ran over and began to telephone for help. She also stayed and kept coffee on for the many who came to help. Freda Bertram came and wrapped John and Grace in blankets to take them home with her. The Fire Department kept the blaze from spreading while R.C.M.P. members shot holes in oil barrels to keep them from exploding. Dad came to the school for us girls and told us what had happened. Accustomed to his teasing, we didn't believe him. We were sure that some special company awaited us or that we would be going somewhere. What a shock to see first the smoke, then the rubble and then to hear the noise of bursting cans and burning oil.

It was a terrible experience for all of us. Our neighbours and friends and even some complete strangers were so good to us as news of our dilemma spread. Bill Stewart immediately began to organize volunteers to rebuild and took upon himself, the job of head carpenter. George Roth collected donations of labor as well as money to get the project started.

Included among many was a half of beef to feed the workers. Herb Stewart, Bill's brother, donated his lumber which was to have been the rafters to build his new barn. Ironically, these materials came from Mom's brothers' farm west of Rocky Mountain House. Consumed in the blaze were many treasured family possessions which had been stored in the attic when we moved there. Included in the loss were all of Mom's art lessons, oil paints, baby albums, and family pictures. The wholesale had just delivered the entire Christmas order of candy to be sold in the following weeks. Dad wasn't well, but Mom's pioneer spirit carried us and we looked forward to better times. Bill Stewart finished the cottage and it was rented to the Buster Austin family and later sold to Gwen King who had lived for a time in the little house behind the store with her mother, Mrs. Lemon.

By 1955, we had once again outgrown our house. We were a family of eight now as we welcomed another boy, David, and Dad returned to the Co-Op to work. Marlene Stewart of Bingley and later her sister, Edith, worked for Mom to help at the store and look after the house and family. A livingroom was added onto the store, the garage became bedrooms and the store front was changed to provide us with a kitchen. The old house was rented to the Duke Hawkings family, who later had it moved to the Bentley area where they farmed. We were moved into our new home behind the store in the fall of '56. Walter, the youngest member of our family was born in 1957 on Betty's birthday. While he and David were little, a neighbour, Mrs. Oluf Neilson, came regularly to help with the household chores. Betty later quit school and stayed home to help out. All of us, except David and Walter, attended school at Poplar Ridge and John and Grace were among the pupils attending when the school closed in 1957.

Because of the store and its central location in the community, we met a great many people over the years. Mom and Dad took an active part in community affairs and enjoyed the many social functions. Mom was an active member of the local W. I. and was always available to help out on committee or community projects.

Mary and Betty learned to play the bagpipes and I later joined them with the drums. We played all over Central Alberta at parades, talent shows, curling bonspiels, fairs, and Robert Burns nights. We never did learn to eat the haggis, though! The highlight of our "bagpipe days" was the year we went to Fawcett to play for Mr. McGillivray, father of J. D., who had owned the store before us. It was his 100th birthday and he danced a jig for everyone as we played. Mary and Betty also played the piano. Dad was very musical and could pick out a tune on most any instrument.

His favorite was the mouth organ which he had learned to play as a boy.

We all had close neighboring playmates; to name a few; the Bertrams, Sparks, and Robinsons. John spent most of the summers with Dorian Bertram and Gerald Robinson. He loved the farm and later spent his holiday at our uncle's farms west of Rocky. Grace was the athlete of our family. She put us all to shame in gymnastics and brought more ribbons home from track and field days than the rest of us all combined. She and Karen Solberg, who lived next door, were inseparable friends all through school. David and Walter enjoyed many of their pre-school days playing with the Butler children who lived in the far house. Walter found the highway a real attraction and was so quick that David often had to catch him and sit on him until help arrived. They both started school at Montfort, riding the bus to and from.

Our years at Poplar Ridge were very active, full of memorable experiences. One such was the cold blizzardy January day in 1963 when Mom delivered a baby boy to Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Bailey. They had just left Sylvan Lake, headed for the Red Deer Hospital when their car broke down. He walked back and borrowed another vehicle, but by the time they reached our place their baby was on its way and they were forced to stop. When the doctor arrived, Mom handed him the new arrival wrapped in a pillow slip. Mrs. Bailey visited Mom some time later and the three of them were properly introduced.

Hallowe'en was always a fun time in our neighbourhood. One year Ray Bertram took 12 of us "trick or treating" from farm to farm. What fun it was to ride in the back of his truck and sing witches songs at the top of our lungs!

My sister, Mary, and Carol Bertram both took a turn running for Stampede Queen at Rocky Mountain House. Mom spent many hours helping prepare floats for the parades and the Sports Club helped out selling tickets.

Mrs. Sparks' mother, Mrs. Wendleboe, brought a big box of skates one year and shared them among the kids at the corner. We all found a pair to fit and enjoyed many hours of skating along the ditches of the highway. Clara Sparks organized 4H for the girls, cooking and gardening, to which most of the girls joined and enjoyed.

The Robinsons and Wileys were great family friends over the years. Evan was always there if we needed help; be it a ride somewhere, a car repair or a shoulder to lean on. He came down to the store often for coffee and we all enjoyed his visits. We still do; only the location has changed. Neighbours seem to meet at the Co-Op Cafeteria in Red Deer. Marvin and Lucille Wiley were also like family to us. Lucille

often made cake doughnuts for John when he was little and Marvin would buy a round of Jersey Milk chocolate bars when he came for coffee. All of us loved to "match wits" with Marvin and never tired of hearing his "fish stories".

Gwen King and "Grandma Lemon", as we called her, were also very special neighbours. I'm sure that at times we kids must have driven them to tears with our noise, yet we were always welcome at cookie time. Grandma Lemon always found time to talk to her adopted grandchildren and enjoyed showing us her beautiful flowers and garden.

A frequent visitor to our house was my grandfather, Albert Duhamel, who had worked on a number of Poplar Ridge farms over the years; breaking land and harvesting. He is remembered by many for his love of horses. He worked for years at exhibitions and at the Calgary Stampede, showing heavy horses. He travelled by train many times to the Toronto Winter Fair to assist Mr. Hanson of Wetaskiwin who entered many prize winning animals. Grandpa (Pop to many), purchased the first vehicle, a motorcycle and in his 60's could be seen tooting along highway #11 travelling from his farm north of Rocky. He later learned to drive a Volkswagen. He was a great hunter and occasionally took my mother with him big game hunting. He never returned unsuccessful. As children, we loved to gather around him and listen to his exciting stories of W.W. 1.

All of us have many wonderful memories of our years in Poplar Ridge. We feel privileged to have lived and taken part in a community with such spirit.

Dad retired to Red Deer and passed away in August of 1979, without having made a trip back to his homeland. Mary and I went in June, 1980, and met for the first time, his very warm and wonderful family. He has two brothers, two sisters, and many nieces and nephews. Mom lives near Leduc with her husband, Axel Jensen, and daughter, Rita. She enjoys raising chickens, many farm animals, grows a huge garden every year and continues her hobby of handicrafts.

Mary (Britt) lives in Hugelshheim, Germany; Betty (Lund) in Red Deer; John in Mornville; Grace (Dueck) in Leduc; David and Walter in Edmonton, and I (Ruth Stewart) in Poplar Ridge.

Alfred Elis Jones

Alfred Elis Jones was born at Guilsfield, North Wales, in 1904. He was the youngest of twelve children. His dad died before he started school and he lost his mother when he was 14. He went to school in Guilsfield. In the spring of 1926, Alf came to Canada on the Montcalm, landing in St. Johns and travelling by train to Winnipeg, Manitoba. He found work on a

farm near Boissevain and stayed there until 1930. He then moved west to Alberta working on farms around High River. In 1938, he started working on the Harold Hutchison fur farm where he stayed until 1940. He worked on another fur farm west of Calgary for 17 months until it closed up for good; too many houses being built nearby. He came to Red Deer to work for Marvin Wiley in 1942. While working there he bought the SW¼ 3-39-28-W4 on the No. 11 Highway from Ray De Pauw in 1945 but remained working for Mr. Wiley until 1951.



Alfred Jones working at W. F. Wiley fur farm.

The next move was back to Calgary, working for Birds Construction for the summer then he went to work for C.P.R. Telegraphic Crews until 1969 when he retired and came back to Red Deer to live.

Alf takes a trip back to North Wales for a month each summer. Out of the big family there is only one sister and Alf left.

Paul Kavalchuk by Germaine Maga

I will always remember when I first came in the middle '30's as a bride to live in this district, when one morning a knock came to the door. I was flabbergasted and frightened to see this strange character standing there. His face was paralysed and he was hard to understand, ragged and dirty. He asked for

something to eat which I gave him and being careful not to let him in. I was happy to see him leave.

That was my first encounter with Paul but certainly not the last. He was harmless, I soon found out.

Many a night he slept out in the bush and lived poorly. One summer he lived in one of our granaries and lived off porcupines, etc. He slept in the loft of our barn too. We milked cows then and I would leave him a jar of milk. It was always picked up and jar replaced for a refill.

John McDonald, a neighbor and a bachelor, used to take Paul in for the winter and Paul used to have to pump water by hand for the animals. Many a disagreement John and Paul would have over this chore. Paul got tired of pumping and John didn't want to do it either. It was hilarious to hear these stories.

One night Paul barged into our house and into our bedroom about midnight. We were both startled to see him there and awakened with his loud voice. He told us he had not eaten for three days. I always fed him and knew why he came at those hours. That was the last time he startled us as I started locking the door at night after that.

It was not surprising to wake up at night and hear Paul splitting wood or to see a neighbor's field had been stooked during the night.

Many a time I would get up in the morning to find a pail of freshly picked raspberries at the kitchen door.

He was of Ukrainian decent and he had told us of a sister at Elk Horn, Manitoba. I wrote to her as he seemed to be having a few health problems and was not a young man. She answered and asked if we would send him home. I never did find out how he ever came here in the first place. With John McDonald's help we finally convinced him to go back home. A train ticket was purchased and we never heard from him again.

He had a shirt and overalls which had been given to him. He wore these home and really thought he was dressed up. He did look sharp after his rags.

He was bounced around. Some people took advantage of him and some tried to be helpful. All in all, he seemed quite happy with his way of life.

William and Betty Kay

William and Betty Kay lived on the Lamont place, S.W. 4-39-28 W4, for four or five years. Bill had been in the Royal North West Police and worked in the Youngstown area. He could tell some good stories of keeping law and order on the prairies in the early days. He was very handy with machinery and a good blacksmith. They left the district in 1931, driving an old tractor and pulling all their possessions

loaded on two or three wagons tied behind each other. Their destination was the Breton area where they farmed for some years. Bill died some years ago. Betty lives in New Westminster, B.C.

Arnold and Grace Kimball

Arnold was born in Brooks where his family farmed. While he was still young his father died, and at the age of thirteen Arnold was out working on railroad construction near Brooks. This experience instilled in him at an early age the value of hard work, which he never lost. As a pastime he learned the art of boxing and, from reports, was not bad! He also had several years experience in irrigation farming — the ditch and shovel type.

When World War II began Arnold enlisted in the army, serving overseas, mostly in England, until the end. After the war he purchased NW ¼-32-38-28-W4, the present Forrester farm. Mr. and Mrs. DeSmitt were the owners at that time. For a short time he lived with them, until he married Grace Pearson, formerly of Elnora, in 1946. During the winter Mrs. DeSmitt taught him to knit to keep him occupied, resulting in an increase in woolen socks and mitts.

Grace had lived with her Uncle Joe Quinlan of Elnora, due to the death of her parents at an early age, until she went to Erskine, where she attended high school. After high school she took three years nursing training at Kamloops, B.C., graduating as a R.N. She nursed at Terrace, B.C. until joining the Army Medical Corps in 1941. She, too, served overseas in England and Italy. On her return in 1945 she stayed a short time with her sister and husband, Sue and Jim Park of Prevo, where she met Arnold.

After their marriage they farmed for several years. Together they had chickens, dairy cows, rabbits, and pigs, sparing no effort to build up a depleted farm. Many of the trees now there they planted, carrying water in pails to enable the young trees to survive.

About 1964 Grace went back to nursing at the Red Deer General Hospital. Later they sold their farm to Abe Littau, who in turn sold to Mr. Forrester, the land being rented to Ernie Walter who is still farming it. Arnold and Grace and family bought a home in East Red Deer and Arnold worked for Scott Fruit. After a few years the country called and they purchased an acreage by the Blindman River on the old C&E Trail. At this time Arnold was a scout leader so he had an ideal spot for scouting activities. He also started a herd of beef cattle.

They have two girls and two boys: Rae who married Jack Hazelwood and lives in Three Hills. They have four children. Ernie who married Leala De Graffe, and lives in Fort McMurray. They have

two children. Sheila who married Wolfgang Schwan, and lives in Golden, B.C. They have 2 children. Earl who is married and lives in Calgary.

Grace and Arnold are now retired, living in Kaslo, B.C. where they enjoy fishing with their boat on the Kootney Lake, and travelling. Arnold still has surplus energy which he releases by remodeling his house or doing odd jobs when the urge hits him. But they both enjoy the free time they have well earned.

Hugh Kirkland

Hugh Kirkland was born in Montreal and came to Red Deer in 1905 and worked for the Fishers. He also worked in Red Deer. He was a pattern maker by trade. He had worked for an Iron Foundry in Eastern Canada making molds for cast iron stoves. He and a couple of partsmen tried to start a factory in Red Deer but never got finished. The walls of the proposed building stood for years where Wiltshire Bakery was in later years.



Hugh, Mina, Edith Kirkland, Christina, Mrs. Bone, Evelyn Bone.

Hugh joined the Royal Prince of Wales Fusilliers in Montreal and was on board the ship ready to sail for South Africa to take part in Boer War when the Armistice was declared.

He married Wilamina Bone in 1908 and they lived on her father's farm, N.E. ¼ of 3-39-28-W4. They had a daughter, Edith, and a son, Telford.

In 1937, Edith married Raymond Hannecart, also of Poplar Ridge. They farmed the Kirkland farm then

moved to Red Deer, where Raymond worked for Safeways. His health gave way and he died April 24, 1968. Edith moved to Calgary.

Edith and Raymond had a daughter, Wealtha, born Nov. 5, 1939. She was a music teacher. She attended Poplar Ridge school. In 1965, Wealtha married Harold A. McKenzie of Bentley. He also was a music teacher. They moved to Calgary and opened up a studio. In the last while they have, as well, been involved in Real Estate. They have a son, Malcolm, born in 1972.

Telford Kirkland married Vera Rabbit of Rocky Mountain House, a school teacher. They also farmed the home place before moving to Sooke, B.C. in 1956 and still are residing there.

A daughter, Juanita, was born to them. She attended Poplar Ridge School. Juanita married James John Dykes and are living in Black Diamond, Alberta. They have a son, Russel, born in 1977.

Mrs. Kirkland died about 1936 and Mr. Kirkland later remarried a woman from Jasper. He lived there until his death in 1974. They are buried in the Red Deer Cemetery.

Lamb, Murray and Joan

Murray's first home was at Russell, Manitoba. His parents moved to Castor, Alberta before moving to Calgary in 1946. He has two older brothers, Elmer and Brooks, and a younger sister, Muriel. They are all married and reside in Calgary. His parents, Eleanor and Freeman Lamb died in 1958 and 1970, respectively.

Murray's father had a stable of Standard-bred race horses, including horses owned by each of his sons. This took up most of his time after the death of Mrs. Lamb and his retirement from the Company. Freeman Lamb was one of the first to establish harness racing in Alberta.

Murray graduated from high school in Calgary in 1949. He joined the family's earth moving company in 1949 and supervised many of the projects until his semi-retirement in 1976. In 1953 he learned to fly and continued taking lessons until he obtained his Commercial and Instrument licenses. The earth moving company used an airplane to take care of widespread projects and still get home for weekends. They had a number of different planes over the years, one being a twin-engine Aztec.

Joan attended Crossroads School from 1944 until 1948, then went to Red Deer where she graduated from the Composite High School in 1953. She worked part-time at a real-estate office in Red Deer while still in school, and then she spent a summer working at the Penhold Air Base. She then went to

Edmonton to work at the Workmen's Compensation Board until her marriage in 1954, to Murray.

After making Calgary their home for 27 years, they moved to the farm, N½ 12-39-28-W4, on July 6, 1979. Coming to the farm wasn't exactly new for them, as Joan's parents, Art and Anne Scott, owned this same farm years earlier and Murray and Joan had owned it for several years as well. They have spent many summers there planting gardens and trees, building fences and a few buildings. Most of the farm is rented to Olive and Joe Duval, and the Lambs take care of about ten acres.

Patti, their daughter, attended school in Calgary before going to the University of Alberta in Edmonton. She graduated as a dentist and is now practicing in Edmonton.

Don, their oldest son, attended and graduated from school in Calgary. He took part of his bricklaying training at S.A.I.T. before completing his course at N.A.I.T. to become a journeyman bricklayer. He now works in Red Deer.

Jim, the youngest, attended and graduated from school in Calgary and is now attending Red Deer College. He hasn't decided what his line of work will be as yet.

Hedley and Serena Langley

Margaret Soley (nee Langley) was the daughter of Hedley and Serena Langley. Hedley was born in Dublin, Ireland, and immigrated to Texas, U.S.A., by boat. He married Serena Woffard of Yorktown, Texas. They raised three daughters: Eva, Margaret, and Mabel (deceased), and five sons: Alfred (Slim), Arthur (Art), Henry (now deceased), George, and Noel. The family immigrated to Canada from Yorktown, Texas, U.S.A., by train in 1919. They came to Canada for health reasons of their eldest girl.

They came through Emerson, Manitoba, and Winnipeg and on to Calgary. Hedley took up automobiles in Calgary at Hemphill School. They moved to Red Deer in 1920.

They farmed the Bert McCune place in Shady Nook in 1922-23 then moved to Pine Hill and farmed the Dingle place. In 1925, they moved to the Poplar Ridge District and farmed the Bruno Krause farm.

Eva married Jerry Sills and moved to the Ridgewood District where Jerry had his farm. They had three sons and two daughters. In 1936, they moved to Spokane, Wash., U.S.A. Jerry passed away in 1947 and Eva and most of her family still live there.

Margaret married John Soley in 1927 and had four daughters and three sons. Margaret resides in Red Deer. (See John and Margaret Soley story).



Hedley and Serena Langley, 1928.

Mabel married Dick Boyden in 1935 and moved to Lousana, Alta. They had two daughters and two sons. Mabel passed away in January, 1960.

Alfred (Slim) married Peggie Kudrick of Mundare, Alta., in 1930 and moved to San Pedro, Calif., U.S.A., and still resides there. They have no family.

Henry married Lena Wright of Nelson, B.C. They had no family. Henry worked in the zinc mines in Kellogg, Idaho, U.S.A., where they moved to after they married until he passed away in March, 1970. Lena is also deceased.

Arthur (Art) married Eleanor McCallum of Clive, Alta., and moved to B.C. They have one daughter. They reside in Windfield, B.C.

George went back to Texas and married Pearl Parr. They had one son. Pearl passed away in June, 1976. George resides at Rockport, Texas, U.S.A.

Noel married Helen Krogh of Stauffer, Alta., and they farmed in the Stauffer area for many years before moving to Rocky Mountain House where they now reside. They have no family. Noel works for the forestry department.

Serena was active in the U.F.A. while in the Poplar Ridge District and attended all their activities. She liked knitting and made many socks, pairs of mitts, scarves and toques, and did a lot of sewing.

Margaret, George, Noel and Mabel attended Poplar Ridge School. The teachers were: Miss Hilda Soderman, Miss Custance, Miss Mitchell, and Dora Bjelke.

Hedley and Serena moved to Vancouver, B.C., in 1928 for Serena's health. They were moving back to Trail, B.C., and on their way she took sick and passed away at Trail on July 27, 1928.

Hedley then moved back to the Poplar Ridge District and lived with Margaret and John. He always took an active part on the farm. He enjoyed all the activities that the family participated in. He liked picnics, dances, and any outings we undertook.

After we moved to Red Deer, he enjoyed going to the shows with his grandchild. He never liked to ride to the show downtown and would walk there and home again.

When his five great-grandchildren were big enough to get around, they would go to his small house and take him children's books and ask for candies. This exchange of books and treats took place several times a day. He enjoyed this very much and told the youngsters that he read the books which of course he never did.

He liked outside and would help with the garden and fix odd things that needed repairing. He loved to read and play the violin and banjo. We had many singsongs. His sixth great-grandchildren was born August 15, 1961.

A family reunion was held at Margaret and John's place in 1960 with 70 attending. A big hot dinner was prepared by Margaret and her girls which was in the style of a dinner out in the yard. This was enjoyed by all who attended. They attended from Rockport, Texas, San Pedro, Calif., Spokane, Winfield, B.C., Kellogg, Idaho, Rocky Mountain House, Lousana, Peace River, Alta., and Red Deer.

A cousin of Margaret's, Dilbert Woffard, from Sinton, Texas, also attended this dinner. His visit was enjoyed by all.

Dad resided with John and I until his passing on December 27, 1961.

by Margaret Soley

Esom Lee

Lee, Esom came from Nebraska in 1901 on an excursion train and filed on homestead, NE¼ 28-38-28-W4. He returned to the States later that year. In 1902, he came back to Poplar Ridge with his family. Shipping up the cattle and farm machinery. They left the homestead in 1909 and returned to the States, settling in Mapleton, Iowa. The Lees were of English and Irish extraction. The Jensen family now own this land.

Lee, Edward and his wife, Mattie, bought C.P.R. land, NE¼ 21-28-38-28-W4. They had no family. Returned to Iowa in 1909. The Gilberts later lived there.

Gardner, Mart and his wife, Lizzie, (Elizabeth) (nee Lee) came in 1901 and settled in Red Deer where they stayed. Their family consisted of two girls and two boys: Ettie, Alberta, Edgar, and Harry D.

Mr. Ninian W. Lockerby
Barrister and Solicitor
Member of the Bar of Nova Scotia
Member of the Bar of Alberta

He was born in Tatamagouche, Nova Scotia, of

Scottish and Welsh Ancestry. He purchased part of N.E.¼ 3-39-28-W4, being 80 acres from Telford Kirkland. He rents the cropland but reserves the pasture land for his favorite hobby, horses and a few cattle.

Mr. Lockerby is a bachelor. His mother and sister, Barbara, who live in Nova Scotia always enjoy spending the summer months with him.

Grandma Lemon and Gwen King

In early March of 1951, Grandma Lemon and Gwen King (mother and sister of Sheila Percival) arrived in Canada as landed immigrants. Two weeks after their arrival at the Percival farm, we experienced one of the worst storms in this area. The Sylvan Lake Highway was completely closed with snow 10 to 12 feet deep. For two women who had just come from a South African summer, this was indeed a shock. Not having any warning of the severity of the impending storm, Tom Percival was in Edmonton with Olive and Joe Duval, and because of the road conditions were unable to proceed south beyond Millet. The next day they made it to Wetaskiwin where they boarded a train for Red Deer as the tracks had been opened. Tom ultimately arrived home two days after the storm broke, having walked out from the R.R. tracks on #11 highway, a distance of approximately five miles. The last two miles he carried two sacks of coal on his back as the entire coal supply was on the back of the truck which had been left at Duvals. The cows had not been milked the night of the storm, so Gwen, a total greenhorn, and Sheila went out the next morning to the now very vociferous bovines swelled to capacity with milk. Neither one of us had ever milked a cow before but I had at least the advantage of seeing "it done".

With great confidence we approached our victims. Gwen's cow shifted position and that was enough to send her into the loft to do the feeding instead. Two hours later, almost in tears, I was still trying to cover the bottom of the pail with milk from my first cow. It was at this propitious time that our neighbours, Mr. Malinic and John hello'd to us from the distance. Out surveying the damage atop the snowdrifts, they pitched in and did all the milking. I'm sure those cows would have thanked them could they have spoken. For years later I swore they gave me dirty looks every time I went near them. Later that afternoon, Mr. Wiley came across country on snow shoes bearing some essential supplies of food, knowing we hadn't been able to get to town for supplies just prior to the storm. That was Grandma and Gwen's first introduction to this new country. After several months visit, pretty crowded conditions



Grandma Lemon, April, 1960.

prompted them to take up residence in the Wiley's "fox house" — a quaint three storied building no longer being used. Gwen's first "job" in Alberta was driving tractor for Art Scott during haying season. In the fall, she applied for a position as accountant with the C.A.D.P. She maintained this position until her return to south Africa with Grandma in 1965.

In the mid 50's, they moved into a little home of their own, purchased from Knud Johanson and located next to the Midway Service Station on Highway 11. These were happy years for both of them, Gwen being active in the early days of the 4H Club as a leader and doing what she loved most — fishing the streams of the West country while Grandma enjoyed her gardening and just being a Grandma.

In 1965, they decided to return to South Africa. A combined farewell and birthday party were given Grandma who was then 80 years of age. She passed away two years later in Durban, S.A. Gwen returned to Red Deer in 1969 but she was not well and from that time until her death in 1976 she was mostly confined to hospital, the Auxiliary hospital and finally the Valley Park Manor.

Joe and Dorothy Lowis

The Lowis farm, NW¼ 27-38-28-W4, was originally C.P.R. land and was later bought by the Saskatchewan Homestead Land Company. Mr. Woods bought the farm about 1920 and built a small house and log barn. The Woods had one son, Franklin, and some daughters. Later the McGee family lived here and George Federoff bought the farm from him in 1938. We bought the farm in 1948 through the V.L.A. For the two years prior to that, we had lived on a rented farm east of Lacombe. We were thinking we would have to leave the Central Alberta area to find land when an unexpected opportunity came along. The Watkin's man told us of a place near Red Deer when we told him we'd been all over looking for land. He said the owner was anxious to sell as his wife was an invalid and he could no longer continue farming.

The next day found us heading for Red Deer in our Model A Ford truck which could only travel about 30 miles per hour. There had been a lot of wet snow that fall and the side roads had frozen with great ruts in them. The highway was glare ice but we were able to make the return trip safely. We found the Federoff family very willing to sell. Our next trip was to Red Deer to the V.L.A. office to see if they were willing for us to buy the property. They thought the quarter was too low and wet, and the price too high. After a few more meetings with them, and a few visits with the Federoffs, accompanied by a French interpreter, we came up with an agreement and signed the final papers in December.

By this time, we had decided that our trips to Red Deer were too cold, and made the big mistake of trading the Model A for a Chev sedan, with a heater: now, we thought, we had lots of comfort. Nearly every trip found us off the road somewhere. It wasn't long before the motor needed overhauling. Then the rear end broke and left us stranded at Lacombe. It cost \$5.00 to have a taxi to bring us from Lacombe.

I'm getting ahead of myself so we'll go back to January 28 when Mr. Federoff had his sale. It was a nice mild day and a good crowd attended. The roads were still icy and not much snow.

We moved a few things down each time we came to the place. Joe drove a team 25 miles with the first big load on the wagon. A neighbour came along with a truck, with a few things, and towed the wagon back so as to bring another load with the other team. On Feb. 13, 1948, we moved all our things with the help of kind neighbours in Lacombe. The weather was good for moving, but next morning we woke up in a real storm. Joe had made arrangements for the men, Metcalf Bros., from the Midway Service Station to take him back to Lacombe that morning. They

brought the pigs back about noon with their truck, and Joe arrived back just before dark with the other team and wagon. By then there was about eight inches of snow.

We were now living in our place by the side of the road, but a lot of things had to be done. Snow sifted in every crack in the house, and mice crawled up the walls of the kitchen. The barn was warm and the cattle were dry, but one of the Jerseys had caught a chill during the move and we nearly lost her. We gave her Whiskey from a bottle which seemed to cure her. One of the sows jumped out of the truck when they were being trucked here, and she lost her litter. A loss we could ill afford.

Our first priority was to fix the house — all two rooms. We spent hours scrubbing, painting and papering. By the middle of March, Joe's cousin, Marie, came to stay with us. We could hardly wait for spring but more snow kept falling. By April 1, the snow was higher than the car when we went to Lacombe to pick up the grinder.

On May 24, Joe plowed the garden, the first land worked on our new farm. The slough was full of water from one end of the farm to the other. We were beginning to wonder if we'd made a mistake coming here.

The wet weather made everything grow, weeds and thousands of mosquitoes to worry us. On the brighter side, we had a good garden and lots of wild fruit was canned. Every cloud was filled with rain and there were many sharp thunder storms. It seemed we were always running for shelter from a storm. One afternoon I was home alone, Joe had gone down to the service station, when a quick storm came up, with thunder and lightning. Suddenly there was a terrible flash and roar of thunder. I looked out of the window and saw the horses running in the south pasture. On a closer look, I noticed our saddle pony laying in the field. She had been killed by lightning. We later found out that lightning had struck a small pigpen near the same area years before. After all the bombs during the war years, thunder storms didn't worry me too much, but after that storm, I just dreaded summer and storms. We had lightning rods installed on the house and barn soon after and that helped me get over my fear of lightning.

In the spring, after we had got the pig pens cleaned out and the yards made, our good friends from Willowdale, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Bell, brought us out a nice Yorkshire gilt. We named her Penny and many pennies she made for us. Her first litter was 14 and we raised them all.

When we farmed at Lacombe, we used horses only. After we came here, we bought a new Ford Tractor, and the horses were only used for haying and

working around the yard. Our most trustworthy horse was a registered Clyde mare Joe had bought at the Lacombe horse sale for \$25.00. As long as she was working all the time, everything was fine. We made the mistake of turning her out with the other horses when we came here, and just kept one team in the barn. In the spring when Joe decided to use her, she had other ideas. She just kicked and refused to pull anything. Joe made a kicking harness which she broke all to pieces. After a few hours, he finally got her pulling an empty stone boat. By adding a few rocks at a time, he finally got her to pull a load. This procedure happened each time after Old Dora had a rest. I vowed I'd sell her before she killed someone; to the first fox man who came along. One day when Joe was away a man came to buy horses. I helped bring Dora into the yard and the man gave me \$25.00 for her. We didn't lose anything on the deal but we did gain a lot of experience.

When we bought the farm, Mr. Federoff had told us there was a good spring on the place. When spring came we hunted and hunted for it. Searching carefully in the extra wet spots in the trees to the north but we couldn't find anything. When Mr. Federoff came out we asked him where the spring was. "Oh", he said in his broken English, "It's in the bottom of the well." We were disappointed as we were expecting to find a little stream of fresh water trickling out of a bank somewhere. The well had enough water for our needs but it was shallow and the water was very hard.

In December, 1949, a well driller came to a neighbour with a man who said he could witch for water for a fee of \$5.00. He stopped at our place and found a spot quite close to the house where he said there would be lots of water. We marked the spot but it wasn't until the summer of 1950 that we could afford to have the new well drilled. They struck a seam of beautiful soft water at 48 feet and our worries about enough water for livestock and home use were over. Joe watched the water Diviner with interest and wondered if he could find the same stream and much to his surprise, he found the rod dipping in the same spot. Since then he has found several strong streams on our farm and other farms around the district. Not to be outdone, I decided to find underground streams too. I've tramped all over the yard holding the rod horizontal but outside of some tired muscles nothing happens.

As there were only 64 acres of cultivated land on the farm when we took over, we were anxious to get the bush cut and land broke as soon as possible. On Nov. 12, 1948, the Brush Cutters moved in to the northeast side of the quarter and worked for 20 hours. We spent many hours piling brush and picking roots on the new breaking. We were always on the lookout

for Indian artifacts. Our first find was a nice arrow head; found not on new breaking but in the garden as we were planting potatoes. Since then we have found many nice artifacts including a large steel blade and an amber coloured spear head.

We were sorry to leave our good neighbours in Lacombe. I had been very ill soon after arriving from England and the neighbours couldn't do enough for us. Always wanting to help in some way, providing transportation for hospital visits for Joe, bringing goodies to the hospital and to the house when I was able to return home. We soon found there were lots of kind neighbours in Poplar Ridge too. Jim Brackney was the first one to call around and see if we needed anything. We spent many happy hours with Alice and Harold Brackney, also, Mr. and Mrs. Woof and Bob and Grandma Edmundson. We didn't only visit a neighbour once a day but sometimes three times in one day. Times have changed; now we only see our neighbours occasionally and have a chat once in a while on the phone. We know they are there and willing to lend a hand if we need help. Everyone seems to be too busy for a friendly visit over a cup of tea. Remember the break at the end of the field while the horses rested and the neighbours discussed the latest world affairs??

On Nov. 29, 1948, the district had a wood cutting bee for the Fred Neilson family. Mr. Neilson had been very ill for some months and the family wasn't able to get in their supply of winter wood. The wood was sawed on Brackney's and hauled in Mr. Scott's large truck to Neilsons. There have been other work bee's in the district — all for a good cause and all very much appreciated.

When we first came here many people were clearing land and burning brush. Sometimes their fires would get out of control and the whole district would be out fire fighting. One such fire was on Brackney's and we were afraid the whole hill side would burn. Many people fought the fire for hours. Joe, Harold and Ray Bertram were up all night putting out small fires that were fanned by the strong winds. That same spring, we noticed smoke in the bush on Harvey's, south of us, and within a very short time the whole bush was on fire. Great billows of black smoke rolled across the flat. The fire came across onto our place and was spreading rapidly across the meadowland by the time help arrived. I'll always remember Mr. Woof setting a fire guard to stop the advancing flames. How thankful we were to have such good neighbours in our hour of need.

After Joe's mother, Sarah Lewis, nee Bunting, died in February, 1950; Joe's Dad, James Lewis, came from Coronation to live with us. By then we had finished fixing the lean-to on the house; thus

giving us three extra rooms. Not very stylish but they were warm and we had room to move around. Pa Lowis looked after the garden and always kept the woodbox full. He and Mr. Woof used to love to visit and exchange stories of their younger days in England as they were both from near Penrith in the North of England.

We never saw much of the teacher at the school. We knew that Nadine Haluschuk was teaching when we came, then Mr. Barnett and his family moved into the teacherage. In September, 1950, the Sam Davidson family moved into the teacherage. They had come from Lacombe and though we didn't know them there, we soon became good friends. A friendship that has lasted through the years.

The good Lord blessed us with two lovely daughters: Rhonda Marie born June 13, 1951 and Glenda Faye, born October 15, 1953. Grandpa Lowis enjoyed his little granddaughters and as they grew older loved to tell them stories of his boyhood. He'd sing them little songs or recite poems he'd learned as a boy. What a thrill the girls had in later years when they were able to visit Cliburn, Westmorland, and walk down those very lanes he used to tell them about.

The summer of 1959 found us making plans to move a small bungalow we had bought in Blackfalds for \$300.00. We dug the basement near the site of the old house and with the help of neighbours and friends from Edmonton built a cement block basement. The house was moved on about the middle of July and we hired Mr. Bill Stewart as head carpenter to remodel it. What a busy summer we had but what a joy it was to work with Mr. Stewart. He would whistle as he worked and when the whistling stopped we knew something had gone wrong. He'd either cut a board wrong or banged a finger.

One day while we were having a coffee break while remodeling, Mr. Stewart glanced at an old Advocate that had been under the linoleum and could hardly believe his eyes when he read the account of his own wedding. The paper was dated April 3, 1925.

We moved into our new house in October. It wasn't finished but the main part was done. That summer and fall was very wet and we had trouble getting the hay up and the crop off. In fact, some of the oats never did get combined. The mice had damaged it so much by spring that it wasn't worth combining and had to be burned off.

The good people of the district gave us a lovely lamp at our house warming party that winter.

Our close neighbours, the Straubs, left in the spring of 1960 and Willis and Margaret Wentworth and family moved on to their farm. They started a dairy herd and shipped milk to Calgary. Joe and

Willis worked together a lot; especially doing veterinary work. They were both handy with a vaccinating gun and could drench an animal in no time. Willis had a cow that didn't seem to thrive and seemed in pain. After the usual shot and drench with a pound of margarine; and finally a magnet and many trips to the barn to see how she was progressing; they decided they could do no more until morning and left her. Imagine Willis's surprise when he checked to see how she was the next morning and there stood a healthy calf and a proud mother waiting for her day.

Dairying meant hard work and long hours but with the Wentworths there was always time for a picnic. Many was the happy time we had by the Blindman, at a farm sale in the west country, with the grass teeming with mice, by the dug-out in winter time or watching a total eclipse of the sun and not forgetting the drives in the west country with an empty gas tank.

All the ladies enjoyed the monthly W.I. meetings. They were an opportunity for us to get out and have a visit. A reason for us to get a new dress and give the house a good cleaning when the next meeting was at our place.

In 1970, I returned to England and Wales to visit my mother and sister. Joe couldn't leave the farm so he and the girls managed without me for six weeks. While in England, I saw beautiful articles made with wheat straw in an ancient craft called "Corn Dollies" which proved to be an interesting and profitable hobby for me.

We sold the dairy herd in 1977. It seemed strange at first not having to get home in time for milking. We had time to do a few things we'd always wanted to do. First, a lovely holiday in England and Wales and a short visit to Holland where we were welcomed with open arms by the Dutch people who befriended Joe when he was a soldier there.

Both Rhonda and Glenda took an active part in 4-H which they enjoyed. Rhonda won a trophy with seed wheat in The Provincial Seed Fair and a Gold watch for a project book. Glenda won a trip to Manitoba one summer. Rhonda graduated from the University in Edmonton with a B.Sc. in 1973. As there was no work for her, she decided to travel with her cousin, Hazel Loughheed. She spent six months in England and they were able to go on a tour to Crete and a bus tour on the Continent which was very educational for them. When she returned there was a teaching position waiting for her at Bentley. She is still teaching there and lives in Lacombe.

Glenda graduated from the Red Deer College as a nurse and has been working in the Red Deer Hospital since then. She lives in Red Deer.

I, Dorothy Mary George, was born in a little



Dode, Joe, Glenda and Rhonda Lewis, 1974.

shack in the Colholme district, south of Chinook, Alberta, on November 16, 1916. My parents, Herbert and Mary George, nee Williams, homesteaded on the prairie until 1926 when we moved to St. Albert from there we moved to South Edmonton where I finished my schooling. In 1937, we sold everything and went to South Wales to live. The war broke out in September, 1939, and many changes took place. I went to Basingstoke in Hampshire to live with my Aunt and Uncle Hopton and Grace George, who had homesteaded on the prairies with Mum and Dad. There, I worked in a factory making and calibrating instruments for aircrafts. It was in Basingstoke that I met Joe and we were married there on November 2nd, 1945.

Joseph Henry Lewis was born June 20, 1917, in the Onward District, northeast of Coronation. The second son of James and Sarah Lewis. He joined the army in December, 1941, and served overseas for four years with the 6th Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment. He returned to Coronation in November, 1945. In the spring of 1946, he rented a farm near Lacombe and this was the home I came to when I arrived as a War Bride in July, 1946.

We have farmed on our own with the help of the girls up until now, but find its getting harder each year. Perhaps its time for a change. Poplar Ridge has been good to us and we have enjoyed our 33 years here.

Donald MacDonell

S.W.¼ 34 38 28 W4 and South 80 of N.W.¼ 34

Annie MacDonald and Donald MacDonell were married in Inverness, Scotland in 1922. Prior to that Donald was a Gamekeeper in Scotland and South

Wales. He was in the First World War for four years and saw action in France and Belgium. Shortly after they were married, they sailed for Canada with Father MacDonell in charge of bringing them out. First they landed in Chatham, Ontario, and both worked on a large dairy farm. While in Ontario, they had a baby daughter who died when she was six weeks old.

In 1926, they came by rail to Red Deer and resided near the Industrial School for a short time. They bought the farm from George Norris and built a new four roomed house to replace the original log one. Donald walked from the Industrial School to the farm each day while the house was being built. There were 20 acres under cultivation when they took over. The Poplar Ridge School stood on a corner of their land.

They worked very hard on a mixed farm using horses at first and later a tractor. Many acres of land were cleared and broke. One year an Indian fellow and his two sons were hired to do some brushing. They camped in the bush and the boys built small log houses in which the MacDonell girls played after the clearing was done. Mr. and Mrs. MacDonell had twin daughters, Anne and Mary. They started school in 1933. Their early teachers were Miss Bjelke and Mrs. Nash. Being close to school, they were able to walk home for lunch. During the war years help was hard to get and Mary and Anne helped a lot on the farm, mostly with horses. The family often had members of the Armed Forces out for a Sunday dinner.



Mrs. Annie MacDonell was very fond of animals.



Donald MacDonell.

Mr. and Mrs. Hunt, Mr. and Mrs. McEachen, and Mr. and Mrs. Buga were their closest neighbours. The family attended the Sacred Heart Church in Red Deer by buggy and later by car. The girls belonged to the Sports Club and enjoyed taking part in the local community activities.

Mr. MacDonell and some of his neighbours planted trees around the school.

An Auction Sale was held in the spring of 1950 and the family moved into Red Deer where Mrs. MacDonell passed away later that year after a lengthy illness. Mr. MacDonell died in 1953. Angus MacDonald of Red Deer was Mrs. MacDonell's brother.

Anne married John Powell and they have four children. They live in Thorsby, Alberta.

Mary married Donald Stewart and they have five children — three girls born in 1956, 1957, and 1964 — and two boys born in 1963 and 1966. Don is a plumber. They live in Kelowna, B.C.

D. J. Maga Family

De Metro and Helen, with a family of nine, came to the Poplar Ridge District August, 1927.

They bought the E ½ of 9-39-28 W of the 4, from Mr. Baines, where Mike Maga, the youngest son now lives. They lived there for a period of four years then moved to the Aspelund district just a couple of miles away.

De Metro was born in Romania in 1880 and came

to Canada at the age of 14 along with his family, two brothers and three sisters. They took a homestead at Wostok, Alberta.

De Metro took a homestead and married Helen Yarmchuk who had immigrated from Austria with her family, one brother and one sister. They raised nine children. They were all born at Wostok. He was a great musician, played several instruments. It turned out that all of the children were musical and able to play. The older boys had an orchestra of their own and played for dances, parties, etc.

Metro was a man of many trades, a great blacksmith, did custom shop work, sharpened plow shares or shod horses. Just any type that had to be done in those days. He also owned a saw mill, did custom log cutting into lumber, etc., owned his own threshing machine and with the help of the neighbors did the harvesting for all as well as himself, great community spirit. He had a sawing outfit which he went out with amongst the neighbors.

Helen had a green thumb, grew a big garden each year, which was greatly needed to feed a big family. She used to make a big barrel of Sauerkraut every fall. She raised chickens and geese.



Mr. and Mrs. D. J. Maga, sawmill, 1939.

De Metro died in 1952 at the age of 72. Helen died in 1938 at the age of 64.

John, the oldest son, born 1902, died in 1931 — age 29.

Nick was a mechanic, owned his own business in Edmonton, born 1904, died 1974.

Rosie Procinsky born 1906. She and her husband John farmed at St. Michael, Alberta. They retired in

1973 at Lamont, Alberta, and was widowed in 1974. **Pete** born 1908, worked for Edmonton Springs Work for 25 years. Is retired in Edmonton.

Bill born 1910, farmed in Poplar Ridge district until his death, October, 1978.

Mary Maga, born 1913, is retired and living in Lethbridge.

Mike born 1915, still living on the farm in Poplar Ridge is retired there.

Kate Gordey born 1916, is living in Wellington, Alberta.

Anna Hanson born 1918, is living in Red Deer, Alberta.

William Maga by Germaine Maga

In 1904, a Mr. and Mrs. Skunnard, a Scandinavian family with four boys, homesteaded the E. ½ of sec. 9-39-28-W. of the 4th M. in the Poplar Ridge District.

They raised cattle and horses on this raw land and managed to break 40 acres.

They also built a 12 room house, and, I understood, a barn which later burnt down. The land was then rented to Mr. Columbus Larsen and later to Mr. Evanson, a Norwegian. I don't know the dates of these happenings but again changed renters, this time a Mr. Whitehead from 1917 to 1920.

Mr. Baines came along and bought it and he rented to William T. Smith, who owned land across the road for one year. In 1924, Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Petro who had just married lived there for a period of one year. For many years in Central Alberta, Elmer assisted as a veterinarian. People got very dependent on him, this was before veterinarian clinics were set up.

Mr. Baines then sold the land to D. J. Maga Sr. in 1927. De Metro Maga had moved from Wostok, Alberta, with a family of nine. He stayed on the land for two years, then moved to the Aspelund district where he also had purchased land.

Later two Walker boys, Earl and Charlie, took the place over. They raised horses and a few cows.

In 1935, two brothers, Bill and Pete Maga, bought this same farm from Bagley and McManus of Edmonton, who had bought it for speculation. Pete decided there must be an easier way to make a living and sold his share to his brother Mike in 1938.

At first work was done with horses but soon an old Wallis Tractor was purchased. It wasn't in very good working condition, so the boys tore it down and rebuilt it again.

There still was only 40 acres broke on the place, so they started clearing land. All summer they would grub trees, break land and pick roots. They also had

to take on outside jobs to help maintain the farm. Since there was no barn on the place, they decided to make one out of logs. They cut spruce logs in the coulee there, skidded them out with a team of horses and erected a 26' x 36' building. They sawed their own lumber for sheeting the roof and to make rafters. The only cost being shingles, nails, and lots of work.

We raised hogs, and milked a few cows. The cows kept us in groceries. We would sell some cream, make butter to sell. At that time the grocer would take in butter in exchange for groceries. Three boxes of Corn Flakes cost twenty-five cents, even then could not afford many, but was a real treat when we did.

In 1944 the farm was split. Mike, now married, stayed on the north quarter and Bill and I lived in a log house and log barn on the south quarter. I am still living there.

Bill bought a quarter of land from W. T. Smith, S.W. 10-39-28 west of the 4th in 1953, now owned by Larry Van Slyke.

Mike and Bill, as well, rent three quarters from Marvin Wiley for many years.

Calgary Power came April 1st, 1949. Telephone — 1962, and Natural Gas in 1977.

We have been fortunate in having wonderful neighbors, who through the years worked well together. Usually, in the spring, they would help one another to put up a supply of wood for the following winter, cut and haul it in, then the team work of sawing and splitting. It usually took a crew of five or six men. The crew would make the rounds until all had their supply of wood.

Threshing was done in the same manner, an ex-



Bill and Germaine Maga, 1967.

change of work, only the hours were much longer. Usually men were fed their breakfast about 5 A.M. and worked until dark. As men started threshing early, the women took out coffee and lunch in the morning, as well as afternoon. Harvest time was a big deal, the men had to be well fed, as they sure worked hard. I always remember making pies for dessert and the men really looked forward to these banquets.

Working bees were often held in our district to help out a neighbor in need, and again the women would also gather and come to feed the crew.

Most of our entertainment was held at our local hall and school. We had pot luck suppers, box socials, card parties, dances, etc.

At the school which was later our community centre there was a skating rink where many hours were spent — the fathers playing hockey against the young.

Bill and I were married in Red Deer in 1937. Our reception was held out at the farm in the big house. I recall, it was very wet and muddy that day. There were no gravel roads from No. 11 Highway, a distance of two and a half miles to the farm. Just had to follow the ruts. They had a tractor on hand to pull anyone that got stuck. In one spot everyone had to be pulled except the bride and groom, who were driving a Model A Ford.

I was born in Manitoba in 1918 and came with my parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Phillion, to Lacombe, Alberta, in 1925. Dad worked in Lacombe and Bentley, Alberta, for a time before buying land in Aspelund district where Mr. and Mrs. Pete Vanderlick now live. I have two younger sisters both born in Alberta. I received my schooling in Bentley and Aspelund.

Bill was born at Wostok, Alberta, in 1910 and received his schooling there. Then, he moved out with his family of nine to the Poplar Ridge district on this same farm.

Bill went to Toronto to work for the C.N. doing electrical work for six years at which time he came back to Poplar Ridge district and worked for local farmers. I recall him telling me one place he worked for \$5.00 a month and the government paid the farmer \$5.00.

We raised two children, a son — Louis William — born 1938, is married and farms in Poplar Ridge district. They have two children: a son and a daughter. A daughter, Louise Margaret, born 1943 is married to Dr. David Bouron, a dentist and lives in Kelowna, B.C. They have two boys.

Louis and Louise both attended Poplar Ridge school, a distance of three miles which they rode on horseback. Louis finished his eighth grade there then

stayed one year in the dorms in Red Deer for his grade nine. Louise finished her grade six at Poplar Ridge and then both children were bussed to Red Deer. Louis and Louise both graduated from Lindsay Thurber at Red Deer and Louise took education at University of Alberta. She got married and taught one year in Edmonton while David was finishing his course in dentistry before moving to B.C.

Bill and I were both active in our community. Bill served on hall board, was a Unifarm member, and served on telephone board.

I belonged to the W. I., we used to serve lunch at farm sales, lots of homemade pies were sold. I also served on Community Centre board.

Bill passed away October 5, 1978, at the age of 68, after 41 years of marriage.

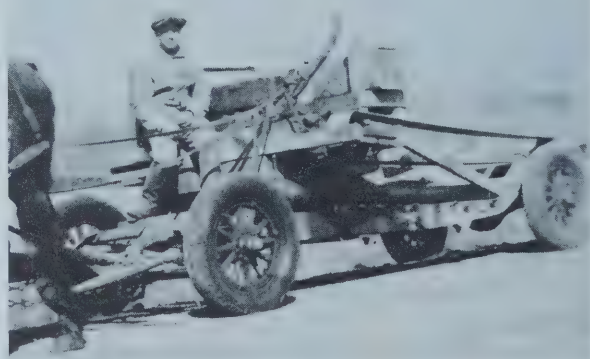
My years in Poplar Ridge are memorable ones and glad to have come to this area. I would gladly live them over again.

Mike Maga

Mike started farming with Bill in 1938. Mike and I got married in 1940. We were married in the same old house we still live in. I had borrowed Germaine's, Bill's wife's wedding dress, which originally had been bought at Lawrence Clothing store in Red Deer for the sum of \$5.95.

The big house was made into two living quarters and we carried on this way for three years until Bill moved on to the south quarter. We then remodelled the house, took part off and made a garage of it and built an entry on, also drilled a well. Mike made a well drilling machine and drilled our well. Also one on the quarter for Bill, one at Aspelund school, also, and different ones around.

He also made a grinding outfit and went from



Mike Maga and his grinding outfit made from an old car body and motor, custom worker, 1948.



Martha, Mike, Judy, Grace, Andrew, Linda, Iris Maga.

place to place grinding for people. He even made flour of wheat by putting it through the grinder twice. He ground for the sum of \$1.50 a wagon load. He also went from place to place sawing wood with a home made sawing outfit. He split wood for people for 75¢ a day with an axe. He overhauled cars and tractors for people around, did welding, shop work of all kinds and would sharpen plow shares. He also plowed and broke land for local farmers.

When the family first came from Wostuk, Mike was eleven years old. He played drums in his father's band along with his older brothers. They played different instruments.

Mike went to school in Wostok and Poplar Ridge. We had a good neighbor, Elmer Petro, who was a gifted veterinarian. Everyone around would call on him when they had a sick animal.

I was born at Bentley, went to school at Pineville west of Hoadly, later at Sunset in the Bentley area. I'm from a family of five, three sisters and one brother. My parents, Alice and John Anderson, are both gone. I belong to the Roseleaf Local U.F.A. We had a conference once a year, where I'd enter handicraft and baking, knitting, sewing, and crochet work. I held the trophy for three years. We took these items there to be judged and got prizes. We had meetings once a month. We would cater to weddings; sell lunches and home made pies at sales and also had turkey suppers. They also got neighbors together for bees to put crops in for the sick neighbors.

We have it a little easier now as we got the power in 1949. Also, later the telephone and now the natural gas.

Before our oldest daughter was born in the later part of 1941, I raised a pig by hand and when I sold it I got \$12.00 for it. I purchased my eye glasses and most of the baby clothes. We had a family of five: four girls and one boy. Martha Bourne of Edmonton is a telephone operator. She was born in 1942. She

started school in Aspelund and went for two years then to Poplar Ridge and River Glen and Lindsay Thurber. They have four daughters and two sons.

Our son, Andrew, came along 16 months later. He lives in Red Deer and is a licensed mechanic and now works for Fleetwood as he is a real handy man with furniture making on the side line. He went to school one year in Aspelund then Poplar Ridge and River Glen and Lindsey Thurber. He has one son and one daughter.

Iris Wyman and her husband, Don, run the Red Deer Car Clean. She went to school at Poplar Ridge, River Glen. They have two daughters.

Linda Poulton lives on a small farm east of Lacombe. She and her husband both work out. She went to school at Poplar Ridge for one year then River Glen. She and Charlie have three daughters.

Judy Dyck lives in Montreal and will be returning to Langley, B.C., when university is over in 1981. She went to school at River Glen, Lindsey Thurber and three years in Calgary. She and Elmer have two daughters. She does office work and he is a teacher.

Things I miss most of all are the local Christmas concerts. Then you knew all the local children. We were kept very busy with farm life; milking cows and sold cream; made butter and sold it for groceries, also sold chickens, eggs, etc. We raised and sold lots of pigs and also fed range cattle but that is all in the past.

The sewing and knitting was all done too as all the children's clothes were home made.

Louis Maga

I was born in Red Deer, April 3, 1938, and have lived all my life in Poplar Ridge District, living with my parents, Bill and Germaine Maga, on the S.E. of 9, 39, 28, W4. My education was taken in Poplar Ridge from Grades One to Eight, Grade Nine was taken at Balmoral #3 (now Riverglen School).

I stayed in the dormitories at the school. It cost \$28.00 per month for room and board. The food was excellent. By 1954, a school bus route went into operation so I caught the bus at Poplar Ridge Hall corner to the Red Deer Composite High School for Grades 10 and 11. The school was held in the old Army Camp, known as A20 but the buildings were getting very dilapidated so a new school was constructed about 1955 and is now known as the Lindsay Thurber High School. So, I completed my Grade 12 in the new school.

In the fall of 1956, I joined the Staff of Hudson Bay Oil and Gas Rangeland Pipeline Division and worked as a pipeline mechanic until 1961. Living at home for the first two years. Then in Red Deer, moving to Sundre to work on a new 12' pipeline from

Sundre to Rimbey. I was then transferred to Olds where misfortune struck. One day I went into one of the local restaurants and was forced into a date with one of the waitresses. Her name was Juanita Robinson from Black Diamond, Alberta. She was born in Fredricton, New Brunswick and lived her young life at St. John, N.B. Her father was a longshoreman by trade. When oil was struck in Alberta, her family moved west and her dad worked many years on the rigs. Nita received her education in various Alberta schools and in 1958 went to work as a cook on the Bar V Ranch at Longview for a year, then moved three miles down the road to the Duke of Windsor, EP Ranch, also as a cook for one year. She then moved to Olds as a nurse maid to an old lady, then at the Home Lunch Restaurant waiting for some eligible bachelor to arrive, which I did in due course. After a very nice courtship of about seven months, we were married at Red Deer in 1961.

We both quit our jobs and returned to the farm, first living at my father's place in a small house which we had purchased and moved in. Three years after our marriage, our son, Louis, was born (1964). About this time, we purchased the W ½ of 4-39-28-W of 4 from the Lamont family who had homesteaded this land about 1900. In 1966, our daughter, Nancy, was born and we had outgrown our honey-

moon house so it was decided to build a new home on the Lamont farm. It was completed and we moved in April, 1967. After living in two rooms for seven years, we now had so much room we didn't know which way to turn. In 1967, we decided to become pig farmers. We had been raising pigs on the old farm but we could not move any as we had no usable pens or buildings.

The old house was moved and converted to our first nursery barn and is still in use today. Dad gave us 10 bred sows to begin our new enterprise. We repaired our old pens for our stock but the fences were rotten and we spent many an afternoon chasing pigs and repairing fences, so, in 1968 we started building new pig pens and houses, etc., completed by mid-summer, just in time to get a 5" rain fall in one hour which (because our new pig pens were built across a large creek bed) washed much of our work down the creek. We were hailed out at the same time so had a very lean year, plus having to build two sets of pig pens in one year.

This same storm washed out the rail line in our farm causing a derailment of nine loaded grain cars, a railway crew of 30 men built a temporary line around the crash, picked up the derailed cars and rebuilt the original line. This job required two weeks of using a large D8 cat and a 150 ton railway crane, all the grain had to be removed from the smashed cars, they were then put back on the track, a mobile repair train was at the site, and each car was rebuilt as it was put on the track.

Since 1968, we have had good crops and no hail. Over the years, we have demolished the old farm buildings and repaired some. A three-car workshop was built in 1970, a cow barn and caterpillar garage in 1971. In 1972, steel granaries were built.

In 1974, we decided to raise more hogs so a new 4,000 sq. ft. farrow-to-finish barn was built with automatic feeding and watering. This sure was an improvement over our old outfit in which all the feed and water were hauled in five-gallon pails. This new barn tripled our output of market pigs and cut our work to less than formerly. In 1976, we decided to buy some cattle to eat the grass around the yard, etc. At that time ten cows were purchased. We now rent pasture land west of Bluffton for our sizable herd and we are again hand mowing the lawns.

Over the years, we rented farm land, one of which was three quarters from Marvin and Lucille Wiley. This agreement lasting nearly 30 years during which time we never had a disagreement, very fine people.

I remember many fishing trips with Dad, Uncle Mike and Marvin Wiley. We would spend two or three days at a time in the west country enjoying



Louis and Juanita, Louis and Nancy Maga, December, 1973.

outdoor life. We used two jeeps for these excursions over roads so bad that I remember one of the jeeps stuck so bad mud and water were running over the side into the jeep.

On another occasion, we had travelled for several hours over very bad roads when we came to a very steep ravine with only a cat trail straight down. After a small conference, we decided to go ahead. With the jeep in low-low gear, we proceeded down the hill, all four wheels sliding and three people standing on the back to keep the jeep from rolling end-over-end. When we got both jeeps at the bottom, Mr. Wiley kissed the ground for safety. This was along Jim Creek, southwest of Rocky. On another trip, our jeep fell through an old log bridge. One of the sticks broke off the pedal connection. We had to jack the jeep straight up off the stick and remove it before we could pull the jeep out with the other jeep. It was midnight before we made it back to camp. This was along the head waters of Raven River where it was just a small stream. In those days we could catch 30 fish each. We never came home without our limit as Dad and Mr. Wiley were very good sportsmen.

Eating fish, fresh caught, and fried over an open fire in an iron skillet has no equal. When I went along on fishing trips, I was always camp cook and can remember cooking breakfast, at the cabin on Jim Creek, of fish and eggs and receiving a compliment from Mr. Wiley.

The fishermen are gone now, but we still drive the jeep which is a 1942 Ford Army Jeep.

In 1967, a 4-H Club was formed in Poplar Ridge of which I became leader for five years. We had field crops and interior design as our projects. During this time, we made many new friends and were given an opportunity to help our young people. In April, 1972, I received an award for being a 4-H Leader for five years. One highlight of 4-H was Nita and myself being chosen to chaperone fifty 17-18-year-old 4-H'ers on an exchange trip to Ventura County, California. While there, we became close friends with our hosts and have since returned in 1975 for another visit with my own family. Our hosts have also visited us twice, a very nice experience. As for the fifty teenagers, we never had to speak a harsh word to them. They were gems. We still see many of them around the county and always stop for a word or two.

In 1974, Nita and I and Alice Woodrow from Willowdale took fifty 4-H'ers to Chadron, Nebraska for a two week exchange. During this trip, I was taken to Wounded Knee, South Dakota. This was during the siege which we saw on our T.V. but to me it just looked like going to Hobbema for a drive, not much of a war. We went through the Black Hills to Mt. Rushmore and saw the presidents carved in rock.

Very impressive. This trip was also very interesting as we lived with a ranch family and saw first hand how they live. After leaving 4-H, I formed a Junior Forest Warden Group which ran for about four years. This organization is like boy scouts, but due to a shortage of boys, the club quit. We had a club house on land given to us by my Uncle Mike. We had many enjoyable outings at this camp and on occasion we went on long hikes and camp outs. I really enjoyed this group.

In 1975, I decided to become a ham radio operator so I took instructions from Al Stephenson and Dick Krogman, without whose help I could not have made it. At the time of this writing, I am getting ready to write for my advanced license to give me better radio privileges.

Nita and myself have taken an active part in community activities starting with the Sports Club and continuing with the new community hall which we helped build. I'm very proud to be a member of this community as everyone gets along very well together.

Nita has taken up macrame and has made over 300 hangers, etc., which are hanging in many homes, business places and restaurants in Central Alberta. At one time, Nita had a group of local ladies who took classes from her.

Another hobby which we have for about twenty years is the raising of Dachshunds. We started just after we were married with one female, and over the years have raised many puppies which have gone as far as Yellowknife, N.W.T., and many homes in Western Canada. At present, we have three females and one male. Our favorite is called Centa (short for Centapede) who has a large selection of toys, which he likes to bring out the minute company comes so they can spend some time throwing them for him. At the time of this writing, our son, Louis, is in Grade 12, a student at Lindsay Thurber in Red Deer. Our daughter, Nancy, is a Grade 9 student at River Glen.

Nita and myself are busy farming and watching the urban developments slowly overcoming us, so who knows about our future!

Malinic Farm — S.W. ¼ 12-39-28-W4 by Annie and Bill Stansfield

The Malinic story starts in a village in Czechoslovakia in 1926 when John Malinic left to find a better life in Canada. Annie, his wife, had their oldest child on July 21st, 1926, who was also named Annie.

In 1933, he sent for his wife and child. It was the first time he'd seen the girl as he'd left in the spring before she was born. Six weeks after they arrived in

Canada, John, who was working for the C.P. Railway had a serious neck injury. He was taken to a hospital in Calgary from Bowden where they were living. He spent weeks in hospital, neck in a leather collar, but he never fully recovered from the accident. Months were spent on his back when he came back home. His son was born July 4, 1934, and was also named John. Shortly after, they moved to Calgary where they lived for about one year. The accident had left John so he was unable to work for the C.P.R. again so a decision was made to buy a farm. In the early part of 1936, they moved to Poplar Ridge. The farm had been owned by a family called Brownrigg. The first house was a log structure which is still standing near the present house, which at that time had four rooms, two up and two down. This one was narrow boards with a shingle roof. They had come by train and their furniture came the following day by truck. The first night they spent at Poplar Ridge was frightening for everyone, the chimney caught fire but luckily burned itself out without doing any damage but one thing Mrs. Malinic did in the years to come was to make sure the chimney was swept and stove pipes were regularly taken apart and cleaned.

Their youngest daughter was born on February 12, 1936, at home. Annie, the oldest girl went to Poplar Ridge school. The neighbors were Mr. and Mrs. W. Huss and their son called Willie. The other neighbors on that road were Mr. and Mrs. Ward and their two girls, Olive and Doris.

In winter Olive would take Annie in a small wooden cutter across the fields to Poplar Ridge school where she also went. Doris was older and going to Crossroads school. When the fields were under cultivation, they went on horseback. A black mare carried them both but Annie got her own pony which had a mind of its own and more than once Annie had to walk home or to school when she came off the horse. The teacher was Miss Helen Neilson who later became Mrs. Farewell. When Miss Neilson left Mrs. Mabel Nash became teacher.

The highlights of school were rambles through the nearby woods, wiener roasts and an impromptu concert to which each child had to contribute a song, poem, etc. At the end of June, a sports day and picnic was arranged either at the school grounds or at Sylvan Lake with all families coming and everyone having a great time — races, horseshoe throwing and of course swimming in the lake. At Christmas, there was the concert in the Poplar Ridge hall. There were also dances in the hall and the usual method of transport was horseback with trousers on and dresses neatly folded around the waist. Those early years the work was done with horses ploughing, discing and harrowing.

Trees were felled in winter and brought out while snow was on the ground to provide heating for the house. Wood was sawn on a motor saw and later chopped to stove and heater size.

There used to be a character who lived in a shed on Mr. and Mrs. Huss's farm. He was a handy man who did odd jobs and when he came into anybody's house and got warm, the smell went all over the house. He was like a bundle of rags and I never saw him clean. He trapped animals for food and said porcupine meat was very good.



Annie, Mary, John, Mr. and Mrs. Malinic, about 1944.

Mother found a swarm of bees in the bush one summer and with the help of smoke, they got the colony in a wooden hive. They had them for a few years but one very cold winter they froze although they had been well covered in a shed. There is a sharp bend going in to the farm and the beginning of a coulee under the road was a wooden trestle and when the snow melted it wasn't safe to use this road so another entrance was made 'til this one dried out. The water running through the coulee was like thunder for days. Mr. and Mrs. Malinic were Catholics but as they couldn't get to Red Deer to church in the early years, they let Annie go to Sunday School with Mr. and Mrs. R. V. Wilkins which was held in the Poplar Ridge school.

Above the C.N.R. trestle bridge on top of the coulee, it was full of saskatoon bushes. In good years you got buckets full which were bottled ready for the coming winter.

Annie left school at 14 and helped on the farm but not for long as with the outbreak of the Second World War, airmen were sent to Penhold for training and it was one of these that she met and married. An Englishman by the name of William Stansfield. They married Dec. 26, 1942. Their first child, Jean, was born August 31, 1944, and it was soon after, in

November, Annie came to live in England where they still are. Marie was born in England.

Malinic History

SW 12-39-28-W4

The Malinic history in Canada began on March 30, 1926, when John Malinic, Sr., landed at the port of St. John, N.B., after an ocean voyage which brought him from Czechoslovakia. He then travelled by train westward across Canada to Airdrie, Alberta. He was met at the station by a Mr. Blair, a farmer for whom he was to work for about one year. It was a difficult year as a new language and new customs had to be learned. The Blair's were a large, helpful family which made the transition a bit easier. Farm work was hard and John soon found out that work on the railway was comparatively easier and wages were much better. So, he went to work for the C.P.R. during the summer of 1927. He was laid off the following winter. Work was hard to find in Alberta so he journeyed westward to Vancouver, B.C., where he worked part time during the winter. When spring came, he travelled east to Alberta again and again went to work for the C.P.R. He then stayed with the railway until 1933. During this time he was sending money to his wife and daughter still in Czechoslovakia. John was also making arrangements to bring over his wife and daughter.

Mrs. Annie Malinic and daughter, Annie, landed at Montreal city, Quebec, Canada, on September 8, 1933. They had made the trip with another family from another village in Czechoslovakia. They made the trip together to Calgary where they separated. Mrs. Annie Malinic and Annie then journeyed north to Bowden to be reunited with husband John. Their happiness was shattered about one month later when John suffered a tragic accident while working with a hand car on the railroad. He had slipped and fell under the moving handles of the hand car which broke a bone in his neck. The break caused some paralysis which was to remain the rest of his life. Dr. Richard Parsons first looked after him. After a short time, son Dr. MacGregor Parsons took over and was to remain the family physician until his death a few years ago. It took two years before John was able to be active enough to begin to be able to make a living again. During John's convalescence, son John was born on July 4, 1934.

Eventually, they purchased the quarter section in Poplar Ridge where John was to spend the rest of his life and where wife, Annie, and son, John, still live up to the time of this writing. John, Sr., passed away in October, 1977.

John and Annie and daughter, Annie, moved onto



Mrs. and Mr. Malinic, John Malinic and Mary Carlile, 50th Wedding Anniversary.

their new farm on January 1, 1936. It was purchased from Henry and Elsie Brownrigg.

Their first night in their new home would be one they would never forget. The day was cold so a hot fire was made in the stove to warm things up. When evening came, they noticed a strange red glow on the trees west of the house. Rushing outside, they discovered the creosote in the brick chimney had caught fire. Some how they managed to put out the fire using water or snow. For many years after that incident there was always a ladder leaning up against the house.

John and Annie's brother-in-law, George Figlar, also moved onto the farm at the same time and was to help with the farming. Plans were made to bring over George's wife and mother from Czechoslovakia after they had settled in but it was not to be. The authorities said a small house could not hold two families. An offer of a house a mile away, from Ralph Wilkins, came a bit too late. George was never again reunited with his wife and he left the farm two years later for Montreal where he passed away in 1978.

The family had just settled into their new home when another happy event occurred. Daughter Number Two was born. Mary was born in the farm home with Dr. Mac Parsons in attendance. A friend, Mrs. Dahl, was to stay with mother a short time. She was from Netook.

As time passed, John Sr. regained his health so by the 1940's he would be able to look after the farm with the help of wife, Annie. During the earlier

years, however, they did have men to come in to help with the heavier work. There was much bush to be cleared and it would be a few years yet before heavy machinery would be available to clear the land. Three local men who came in to help were Norlan Amlee, Dennis Chizmazia, and John Buga. Norlan Amlee lived with his family on the Wiley place where his father helped with the fox farm. Dennis and John also lived at their homes. Dennis lived across from Walter Hart's and John Buga and his family lived in a small house just west of the Poplar Ridge school on land owned by his father, John Buga, Sr. Some land was cleared by hand but the ground was broken by tractor and breaking plow. Three earlier people who broke land were Willie Huss, Gerry Phillian and

Alex Macleod. Willie used a tractor, Gerry an International, and Alex had an old Rumley oil pull. In the 1950's more land was cleared and broken by Murray Lamb using a large Allis Chalmers dozer. The last land cleared and broken occurred during the late sixties. The last bit of work was done by a contractor named Smith and another contractor, Tony Marcinek. There is still bush left for shelter for the cattle and used for shelter belt.

During the 1940's and 1950 the district became more civilized. Roads were high graded and gravelled with improved summer maintenance and much more snowplowing in winter. Before the roads were gravelled, heavy summer rains would make the roads nearly impassible. There were times when a tractor had to be used to pull the car to the highway or pull the car out of a mud hole. During the wet periods, there were few trips made to town. Winter also brought hardship to travellers. During the forties all land between the Blind Man River and Number 11 Highway belonged to the county of Lacombe. During this period snow plows were seldom seen. After a one or two day blizzard the road would become blocked and getting to the highway by car would mean getting there across a neighbours field. After one such storm, John Sr. and wife Annie hitched a team of horses to the front of the old car and Annie drove. All went well until they had just about reached the highway. Somehow the double tree became unhooked from the car and the horses took off pulling John off the hood of the car. On the older cars the radiator cap sat on top of the hood. In the process of sliding off the hood, the seat of John's pants snagged on the radiator cap. Fortunately the only damage done was to the seat of the pants. After the county of Red Deer took over our part of the district the snow plow service improved to the point where the roads were seldom blocked.

Up to the middle of the fifties coal and wood was

used to heat the house and coal oil lamps to supply light.

It was 1954 when Calgary power brought in the power lines north of Number 11 Highway. This could be considered as the true beginning of modernization of the farm. It was to help eliminate much of the drudgery in farm work such as pumping water by hand and milking cows by hand. The early fifties were one of the wettest in memory. Every power pole hole which was dug usually had several inches of water in the bottom. The electricians wiring the house had to work in several inches of water in the basement. A few years later coal and wood was replaced by a propane furnace. This again eliminated a lot of drudgery as the wood pile was done away with. Complete modernization of the house did not come about until 1969 when a new addition was built onto the north side of the house which was to contain a bathroom and laundry facilities.

During the forties, fifties, and sixties farm income was derived from milk cows, pigs, chickens, and for a few years several geese. About 100 hens were kept but as eggs were only worth about 25¢ a dozen the hen flock disappeared by the sixties. After faithfully milking the cows for more than 25 years, John Jr. sold the last five milk cows in October, 1977, keeping only some range cows and raising a few hogs.

When John Sr. and Annie first came onto the farm their only neighbour on their road was the Ward family, living one half mile south. Daughters Olive and Doris Ward still reside in Calgary. The Tom Percival family owned the Ward quarter for a number of years. Other families living on the quarter at one time were: Slim Woods, Fredricksons, and Olaf Neilsens. At one time a post plant was located on the quarter owned by George Nies. The plant treated fence posts and telephone poles.

Less than a year after the Malinics had settled in, the William Huss family moved onto the quarter west across the road. Other families living there later were Alex Reso and Walter Cobetto. The Percy Belich family now own and reside on the Huss quarter. The Lyle Walker family presently reside and own an acreage on the Percival quarter.

John Jr. and sister Mary received their early education at Poplar Ridge school. They both went to Grade Nine there and then went to Red Deer to the River Glen for their high school, John Jr. resided at the dormitories located on the site of the old army barracks while completing Grades 10 and 11. By the time Mary started Grade ten school buses were transporting the rural students into Red Deer. In those early years of school bussing, Mary had to walk the

one and a quarter miles to the highway to catch the bus.

After writing this history and thinking much of the good old days it almost appears history has made full circle. It is difficult to predict what the future brings but there were times when the district people used the resources at hand to survive. With an energy shortage looming on the horizon, coal and wood heaters are again being offered for sale in many stores. Will we again start using horses for transportation and to till our fields? Or using coal oil to light our homes? Let us look to the future with optimism.

John H. Malinic

Mary Carlile

The most outstanding memory was the spring breakup at the Red Deer River Bridge. Many cattle were killed by the ice packs just east of town.

The war years had brought large numbers of airplanes that flew in maneuvers and my greatest thrill was when one would spot me and tip his wings. Of course, there was always the cute airmen who would stop and say how cute I was, when actually he would be more interested in my sister, Annie. Penhold had many airmen stationed there and Harvards plus the beacon light were common sights every day.

My only encounter with Indians was a wagon drawn by horses with a man and a woman and three kids in the back. Of course, I was taking my daily dip in the bathtub which was set outside on a summer day, so I knew exactly what it was to be faced with Indians on a wagon train. I was just a little kid, and I was terrified, but they just kept moving down the road.

I should have started school in Grade one when I was six but the new school was not built so I took correspondence at home. I ended up going to Grade one in the new school anyway since I didn't learn much at home. Grades one, two and three were okay. Grades four and five were trouble. The school was cold in winter and hot in the summer. While riding a horse to school, I had frostbites on both legs from the severe cold.

Army convoys were passing on the road each morning for one week and I would each day every morning end up in the ditch after the horse shyed and threw me. They didn't even stop to say they were sorry. Sometimes its tough being a little kid.

In Grade Nine, I made what I thought was my biggest project, a scrapbook describing cattle, horses, and sheep in detail with pictures in reference to breed and their use. The teachers at the Composite for Agriculture took my scrap book and all my hard work was never heard of again. I was chief map

maker for Mr. Davidson, planted seed grain to test for the local farmers.

My teachers from Grade One to Nine were: Mrs. Nash, Miss Schaefer, Miss Haluschuk, Mr. Barnett and Mr. Davidson.

I always got into trouble in the field of Art because I could draw and they said I traced but when I was able to Draw Santa and his reindeer on the black board for the Christmas season, they at last saw I wasn't joking.

Finished with the one room school house, I went to the Composite High School where, in Grade Ten, I had to stay in the old Army Barracks. I always thought it was silly to pack knives, forks, and spoons to every class room. And everytime you opened a binder, the cutlery would go crashing to the floor and dozens of spoons dropped by various people at the same time can be distracting.

Grades 11 and 12 saw the arrival of the school bus from Red Deer through the Burnt Lake Trail, past Sylvan Lake and back to our road where I had to walk the rest of the way home.

After Graduation, I decided to attend the Holy Cross Hospital in Calgary to become a nurse. When they discovered I was deaf in one ear, I was disqualified. In 1956, just for fun, I joined the Air Force and spent the next three years packing parachutes.

After my three year hitch, I went to secretarial school and graduated six months later. I got a job in Deer Home in the Business office.

After two years, I met my husband to be, Stan Carlile. He owned a gravel truck which was always breaking down but, none the less, we dated for two years. We were finally married in 1962. We settled on a farm in the Eckville area. I made a promise a long time ago never to marry a farmer and never to live in the Eckville area because it seemed so remote, but in the fall of '62 that's exactly where we lived. We had a daughter, now 17, and a son, 14. In 1964, symptoms of Multiple Sclerosis became evident and within three years I was stuck in a wheel chair. With the help of my husband, Stan, my children, Sheila and David, I am able to remain a part of the family under sometimes trying conditions because M.S. is crippling.

Looking back, I recall street cars at Calgary, the old C.P.R. Steam Engine, the engineer who waved as the train passed on the trestle, trees, Maurice's horse "Dolly", concerts at the Poplar Ridge Hall which was a big deal in those days, the crocus field near Number Eleven Highway, the cinder sidewalk, my brother and I searching for rocks in the Coulee, and being a stupid little kid, I threw them all away. Some had complete fossilized leaves. But then I was just a little kid.

My home at Poplar Ridge holds fond memories

but perhaps when you're young, healthy and carefree you always remember the "Good old days".

Mrs. Carlile (Mary Malinic)

Narcisse Marion

NE¼-26-38-28

Article from the Red Deer Advocate contributed by the Archives Committee

Doubtless few remain of those who danced to the haunting strains of Narcisse Marion's violin. Now gay, now sad, but there always was that irresistible invitation to the feet of young and old to move in unison with its tantalizing rhythm.

It was said by old-timers that he could make a fiddle talk and he was much in demand at the early dances in the Red Deer area. Very fond of dancing himself, when the dance was well under way, he would often hop out on the dance floor with his fiddle and dance and play at the same time, and it was said that he was light as thistledown on his moccasined feet. As the night wore on, he would go to sleep while playing, his head would gradually sink back or sag forward but he would go on playing. Suddenly he would realize what was happening and he would bring himself up with a jerk and go on playing without missing a note.

He was born in Manitoba of French Metis parentage in 1851 and he came to the Red Deer area about 1887. Tall and well built, to him the heritage of mixed blood in his veins was a matter of pride and he wore his hair in Indian fashion.

His wife, to whom he was presumably married after coming to Alberta, was born at St. Albert, west of Edmonton, in 1857, and around the turn of the century they lived with their family of small children in a small log shack on the top of the ridge that was known as Poplar Ridge, west of the Red Deer River crossing.

It was very light soil, heavily covered with brush, and was the venue of plenty of blueberries and brown bears in season. The impoverishment of the soil, however, did not worry Narcisse, for he was not interested in farming. He made his living from hunting and trapping, and to signify his vocation, he wore a round, flat fur cap with an animal tail hanging down at the back.

He and his wife were anxious that their children, good looking and well behaved, would not learn the white man's ways, though later the two eldest sons, Victor and Billie, worked at the Red Deer power house.

One place where Narcisse and his violin made periodic appearances was the home of Ted Edgington on Victoria Avenue, a good sized house, of which, since the owner was a bachelor, he used only the

kitchen and bedroom. The young people were welcome to meet there at any time, bring their various instruments and play together, dance or just have good clean fun. At the first old-timers' banquet held in the Arlington Hotel at Red Deer on Feb. 28, 1910, Narcisse had the longest record of residence in western Canada of any of those present.

His death during the first week of January, 1917, probably not only witnessed the passing of an outstanding individual but the passing of an era, and the following extract from his obituary in the columns of The Advocate pays eloquent tribute to his exceptional qualities: "To know him was a real pleasure. He was truly representative of the 'voyageurs' referred to by Whittier in his poem 'The Red River Voyageur' and to know him intimately was to respect him abundantly.

"Perhaps in the stillness of the night around the camp fire, he would give you a glimpse of his beliefs in simple and quaint language. Nor were they very complex or intricate, for he would say that, in substance, he thought that a man who was honest and truthful and kind was living the life that the Great Spirit demanded and his life was more largely governed by his belief than perhaps some of us are influenced by a much more involved theology.

"He had a great kind heart, was courageous and determined and possessed a native dignity, which never under any circumstances failed him. He was equally at home in the company of Indians, half-breeds or whites and was always respected in any company in which he was found. Broken down in health from long exposure and many hardships, it can be truthfully said of him as of the other voyageurs who preceded us in what used to be this great lone land:

"Happy is he who heareth
The signal of his release,
In the bells of the Holy City
The chimes of eternal peace."

He was buried in the Catholic cemetery in North Red Deer, where doubtless his grave was originally appropriately marked, but now it appears to be doomed to the anonymity that has befallen most of the graves in that weed infested and rubble strewn sanctuary of departed pioneers.

Mrs. Marion moved to Millet in 1928 to live with her son, William, there. She died there on March 31, 1929, in her 72nd year and is buried in the Millet cemetery.

The surviving family were two daughters, Mrs. G. Renis and Velma of Millet and three sons, William, Louis and Victor.

Victor enlisted at Red Deer during the First World War with the 187th Central Alberta Battalion, later

being transferred to the 202nd Battalion in England, and when the unit was broken up, he was drafted to the 50th Battalion in France in May, 1917. Subsequently he was posted to the 10th Brigade trench mortar battery with which he served until the end of the war.

Matthews, Bob and Myrtle

Bob and I, with our three children: Mae, Dale and Phyllis, came from Red Deer, February, 1949, to the Poplar Ridge District. We bought what was then Midway Service Station from James and Jessie Brackney. Shortly after we moved there was a heavy blizzard and the highway was blocked for a couple of days. The children looked forward to moving out there as they would be able to have a cow and some chickens. The cow pastured across the road so they would ride on her back at night to bring her home. They attended the Poplar Ridge school and still have fond memories of their classmates.

Business being not very brisk, our stay out there was short so in September, 1949, we moved back to Red Deer. Mae is Mrs. K. Fraser and lived in Red Deer with four children. Dale now lives in Golden, B.C. Phyllis is Mrs. Wilson Pickering and lives in Sylvan Lake with three children. Bob passed away May 24th, 1975. I still live in Red Deer.

The McBlane Family

Alexander (Sandy) McBlane was born and lived his early life at Kilmarnac, Ayrshire, Scotland, as a young man with his sister, Janet, and brother-in-law, Mathew Wilson, he came to America. They first settled in Kentucky, U.S.A., in 1865 but soon moved to Canada and settled in Ontario. He married Isabella McLean in 1870. She was also of Scottish descent and was born near Cromerty, Ontario.

They took up land at Sandy's Cove named after Sandy on Lake Rosseau in Muskoka district. The land was heavily wooded and they worked hard clearing their land and raising their family. Sandy had the urge to move west and so they sold their farm and taking two Clydesdale horses, four or five purebred Shorthorn cattle, and some settler effects, Sandy took the train for B.C. His wife and family followed by passenger train.

They settled at Ladner, B.C., on the south side of the Fraser River, right on the sea coast. It was not a good location and they were only there four years when the river flooded and they lost most of their farm and possessions.

It was time to move again.

After looking at land in the Buffalo Lake area, Sandy homesteaded the S.W. of 21, 38, 27 W4th,

about one mile north-east of Red Deer and once again on a river. Their first home, a log house, was built right on the river bank. When they saw how high the water came when the ice went out the next spring, they moved their house to higher ground and added more rooms to it.

It was here that Duncan was born. He was the youngest of a family of six girls and six boys. He grew up beside the beautiful Red Deer River and liked to reminisce of times spent along its shores and fishing for Goldeyes and other fish. He attended the old Central School in Red Deer, often taking a short cut across the old C.N.R. bridge in summer and crossing on the ice in the winter.

Sandy died at the age of 72 and the older boys having learned trades and some having married and having places of their own, Duncan managed the farm for his mother for several years. He married Emma Broderick and they had two children, a boy, Bill, and a girl, Lois. They were raised by the river and started their schooling at the old north Red Deer School which is still there at the present time. Their teacher was a Miss Stephenson.

Duncan bought the N.E. of 27-38-28 W. 4th, in the Poplar Ridge District, from the Cunningham Land Comp. in 1920. There was no land under cultivation and as much of it had been cut over by the wood haulers for the brickyards there were acres of large tree stumps.

Clearing land was a slow job and he pastured cattle on most of it for several years. In time, Mrs. McBlane sold the homestead to her son-in-law, Ernest Roy, and in 1932, Duncan moved to his farm in Poplar Ridge. As there was little land in crop and



Lois, Bill and Mrs. McBlane, 1943.



Duncan and Emma McBlane, 1934.

only one small building, there was little but hard work for the first few years. Gravel for the foundation of a house had to be hauled with horse and wagon from the river, a distance of about seven miles. All the other material had to come from Red Deer the same way.

Allen McBlane, Duncan's brother, was an excellent carpenter and did much of the work on the house. Somehow they managed to get the house finished to where they could move into it in time for Bill and Lois to start school on time in the new district. Lois was in Grade 2, Bill in Grade 3. Their first teacher was Miss Bjelke and later Miss Neilson. Bill and Lois walked across the fields to school. Lois managed quite well but Bill was often distracted by rabbits, squirrels and on occasion a skunk. This usually resulted in the loss of several days of school.

Some of Duncan's early neighbours were Harry Christie, Mr. and Mrs. Miller, Mr. and Mrs. Jack McGee, J. Gaetz, Roy Archibald, the Woof family and George Theakston.

The first small piece of land was plowed with five horses. Later about 15 acres of brush was cut by Mr. Skocdopole with a caterpillar. This was broken by Archie Philips of Crossroads. Emma McBlane was very fond of flowers and needlework. She was a member of the F.U.A. until failing health made this impossible.

Lois married Charlie Francis of Edmonton in 1946. She was a victim of the polio epidemic of the fifties, leaving one daughter, Sherry. She made her home with her grandparents on the farm for several

years and started school at Poplar Ridge after which she returned to live with her father.

Emma McBlane passed away after a lengthy illness in 1958 at the age of 58. She was always a cheery person and was deeply missed by Duncan and Bill.

Duncan McBlane was very fond of animals and especially horses. He was one of the last in the district to buy a tractor and kept two old faithfuls, as he called them, though they were seldom used, even for chores. One of his "old faithfuls" got in trouble one day when it reached over the garden fence and pulled a small pine tree out by the roots.

The tree had been brought many miles and Emma had spent a lot of time and work to get it to grow. The tree was replanted but had been mutilated too badly and died. The horses were not so welcome around the yard for awhile after that.

Duncan enjoyed driving around the Red Deer area and as the family got better cars and the roads improved, the family enjoyed many pleasant Sunday drives, sometimes east to the badlands and sometimes west to the upper Saskatchewan River and mountains. His only regret being that Emma couldn't have lived to enjoy more of the trips.

Duncan suffered a heart attack and died suddenly one April morning in 1971, just a few days before his 75th birthday.

Bill had worked in Red Deer and assisted on the farm for a number of years and lives there at the present time. He still enjoys a trip out the David Thompson highway and a day's fishing in the river or at one of the local lakes with friends.

Sherry is now Mrs. Brian DeMaree and lives at Squim, Washington, U.S.A. She takes after her grandfather, Duncan, in as far as she shares his fondness for animals and they both could play the violin. Perhaps we should say their violin, as it is now hers. Sherry and Brian have managed to spend part of their holidays visiting her Poplar Ridge home which still holds many happy memories for them.

Alex McBlane Family **by R. A. McBlane — 1980**

Born in Ontario, Alexander Wesley McBlane came to the Red Deer district with his father in 1893. He homesteaded the SW ¼, Section 28, Range 27, Township 38, West of the fourth meridian which is known today as the Pine Subdivision in the City of Red Deer.

Alex McBlane married Jessie Margaret Dick of the district of Ponoka in 1911, moving to the Poplar Ridge district in 1913. He farmed the NW ¼ of Section 22, Range 28, Township 38 W4th. Jack Rich homesteaded the quarter and it is presently owned by Jack Moore.

Alex and Jessie McBlane raised three children: one girl, Isabelle, and two boys, Gordon and Archie. They farmed in the Poplar Ridge district until 1929 when they moved to the Village of North Red Deer.

When we were youngsters going to school, we had to walk past Bill Hunt's place. He had a bull that always seemed to be near the fence and it was the highlight of the day for us to try to get past him without him noticing us. As if he cared. As the story goes, the old bull got off his feed and wasn't doing his natures obligations. Bill had the vet out to see what was wrong. After examining the bull, the vet gave Bill some medicine to feed him. Well, the bull had no sooner taken the medicine when he started pawing the ground and headed for the cows. A few days after that Bill was telling a neighbour the story. The neighbour asked him if he could remember what the name of the medicine was. Bill said he couldn't remember the name, but that it tasted like licorice.

Another neighbor of ours was a gentleman, God rest his soul, and a first war veteran with very bad nerves. One winter day as he was going home from Burnt Lake with his team and sleigh with a load of hay, he just happened to look back in time to see a man with a rifle disappear behind his load so, with pitch fork to the horses, away he went. When he got home he telephoned the local police and sent a general alarm over the old telephone system saying there was a wild man loose. As it turned out it was another neighbor trying to get a shot at a coyote. No harm was done but it certainly broke the monotony of the day.

The old telephone system with fifteen or twenty subscribers on the same line was ideal for a general alarm when needed, but not very private unless you wanted to start a good rumor, true or false, just make a casual remark over the phone and someone was always listening.

In the early days a cement basement was seldom heard of. There was usually a dugout under the house called a cellar. A gentleman, who was a first war veteran, an old country Englishman with bad nerves, who wouldn't keep a gun on the farm, one evening he and his wife heard something in the cellar so he went down to investigate with a pitch fork in his hand. It turned out to be a skunk, so he pinned it to the dirt with the fork and his wife held it there while he got a club and beat it to death. Needless to say, it was months before the house cleared of the odor.

Alex McBlane passed on in 1961 and Jessie is now a resident of the Valley Park Manor in Red Deer.

Isabelle married Elmer Forrester of Innisfail and is now in Edmonton.

Gordon married Thelma MacKay of Drumheller. He stayed in the Armed Forces till his retirement and he also lived in Edmonton.



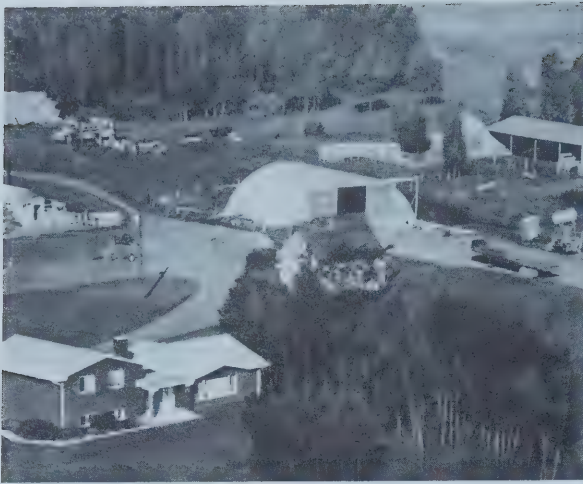
Alex and Jessie McBlane and Isabella, 1912.

Archie, after returning from overseas, married Dianne Woolway of the Clearview district. He served thirty years with the local Post Office and still lives in Red Deer.

McEwen, Bill and Gail

Bill McEwen was born and raised on the outskirts of Winnipeg as was his wife, the former Gail Schneyer. They were married in August, 1960. At that time Bill was half owner of McEwen Bros. Landscaping. As time went on the landscaping business grew with much hard work and many long hours. Bill and his brother decided to open a branch in Calgary so in 1968 they purchased the S.E.¼ 10-39-28-W4th from John McDonald. This land they were to use for growing sod. Of course, this had people wondering as the first sod farm in the area was started. A few years past before Bill and Gail sold their half interest in McEwen Bros. to five employees and in April, 1973, moved lock, stock, and barrel; with their four children: Bradley, Bruce, Billy, and Kimberley to Red Deer to make their home.

Since living in Poplar Ridge, the family has ac-



Bill McEwen farmstead.

quired more land on which sod is also grown. Their eldest son, Bradley, has started landscaping and the business is now known as Blue Grass Sod Farms Ltd.

Bruce, who is now 16 is a student at Lindsay Thurber. He, also, helps on the Sod Farm.

Billy, now 12, is an avid hockey player for Sylvan Lake.

Kimberley, the only girl is eleven. She does very well in Highland Dancing.

The McEwen Family has been very proud to become part of the Poplar Ridge Heritage.

John Henry McGee

NW ¼ 27-38-28-W4

John Henry McGee was born in Ireland in 1896 and came to Innisfail in 1920. He and Edith Wright were married in 1924. Their children were: Richard Nathaniel, born May 13, 1920, Bernice Edith, born October 23, 1927, Bruce William, born in 1929, and Phyliss Joan born in 1942. Richard attended school at Poplar Ridge in the early thirties.

Richard and Bernice were in the armed forces in World War II.

Edith McGee passed away in 1963. Jack is living in Saskatchewan.

A more complete history of the McGee family can be found in the Innisfail History Book.

McGovern, Terrance (Terry) and Margret (Maggie)

Terry came to Red Deer in 1910 from Ottawa, Ontario, where he was born. He worked in the Great West Sawmill for a number of years.

In 1911, he married Margret Demas who had come to Red Deer in 1906 with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Emery Demas.

They lived in North Red Deer until 1917 or '18 when they bought the farm and moved there, living in a two-roomed house for quite a few years until an addition was built on.

There was very little cultivated land and over the years, he and Jack Demas, his brother-in-law, who owned the adjoining quarter, cleared and broke the land on both farms.

Terry was a member of the Norma School Board for a number of years and helped build the old Poplar Ridge Hall where many social evenings were enjoyed by young and old. Babysitters were unheard of in those days so the children came with their parents and later in the evening they were put to sleep on the stage and benches.



Mr. and Mrs. Terance McGovern celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary, January 10, 1951.

Maggie was a member of the UFWA when it was first formed in the area.

In 1932, they bought the half section S ½ of 31-38-28-W4 Meridian where they lived until 1955 when their home burned down and they moved to the Twilight Cottages on South Hill in Red Deer.

Mrs. McGovern passed away in 1971 and Terry stayed with his daughters, Mrs. DePauw and Mrs. Hudson until he passed away in 1973.

They had three children: a son, Jack, who passed away February, 1980, and Nellie (Mrs. Bob DePauw) and Evelyn (Mrs. Ernie Hudson).

McLeod Family

Mr. and Mrs. Norman McLeod and family came to the E ½ 35-38-28-W4 in 1923. At 61 years, Mr. McLeod decided to bring his family of nine, four boys and five girls, to the land of opportunity. The McLeods had been crofters in Scotland. Crofters were farmers of small agricultural holdings. They wanted a chance for a better life in a new country. Mrs. McLeod's maiden name was McPhee.

Two days after the family arrived they experienced a terrible hailstorm. Every window was broken in the house. The family were almost ready to return to Scotland.

There were 50 acres cleared on this half section when they took it over. Their farming was done with horses in the first year. Later, they became mechanized. Many years of hard work cleared and broke most of the land.

Their nearest neighbors were the Duvals, Stewarts, Belichs, Christians, Wildes and Hazletts. These people were often serenaded by John (Ian) who could be heard practicing his bagpipes on a summer evening. John played for many years for the Scottish dancers.

The younger members of the family attended Poplar Ridge School. At that time, Mr. Crummy and Hilda Soderman were teaching.

Angus and Norman served overseas in World War II. They went over with the First Canadian Contingent in December in 1939. Norman contacted Malaria while serving in the Italian Campaign, and Angus was wounded in Italy. They returned from Overseas in 1945-46.

John had a team of Clydesdale horses named "Nip and Tuck". A beautiful team that took first prize at the Red Deer Fair.

Although socials and get-togethers were held at the schoolhouses, the McLeod home was always a



The McLeod Boys. L. to R.: John, Norman, Alex, Normie (nephew), Angus.



Mr. and Mrs. Norman McLeod, 50th Wedding Anniversary.

favorite gathering place. Being a large family every Sunday was open house.

Some of the neighbors were returned soldiers of the First World War. Yves Duval from France, Nick Belich from Serbia (Yugoslavia today) and Bill Christian from England. Nick Belich was a favorite with the McLeod family. He was a very sociable person, who loved to visit with Mr. McLeod.

While the boys were overseas, Mr. McLeod purchased the N.E. ½ 19-38-28-W4 and used it for pasture to raise cattle until they returned. Angus and Alex moved to this property after Angus' return from Overseas. Once again the McLeod boys became close neighbors to Bill Stewart. Angus continued to farm this property, with the help of his nephew Normie, until his passing in September of 1979.

Alex went to Fort St. James, B.C., where he worked in a lumber camp. Alex passed away there in 1972. Of the family of nine children plus father and mother, only three daughters remain (1980). Mary (Mrs. Steal) lives in New Westminster, B.C., Marion (Mrs. Reinhart) lives in Edmonton and Ann (Mrs. Johnson) lives in High River.

Mr. McLeod passed away in 1949 at 87 years. John died two years after his father in 1951, and Mrs. McLeod passed away two months after John. Norman lived in Edmonton and died in 1965. Margaret passed away in Edmonton in 1959. Kate (Mrs. Dancocks) also passed away in Edmonton in 1978.

Mr. and Mrs. McLeod remained in the district until their passing. Alex ran the farm for two years and then sold to Les Edgar. The farm is now owned by Bill Edgar and Sons.

About five years ago the large two-storey house, that had been home for so many years to the McLeod family, burned down. The hip-roofed structure had been a landmark along the Sylvan Lake Trail.

Mr. and Mrs. Al Metcalfe by Freda Bertram

Since the Metcalfes are unavailable at this time to write their own history while in the Poplar Ridge district, I will attempt to write up some data as I remember it.

Al and Ollie Metcalfe together with Al's brother, Glen, were living here at the Midway Service Station on No. 11 Highway when we came here in March, 1948. It is believed that they came sometime in 1947. The two brothers operated the service station and garage at that time, also, supplying and delivering gas to the farmers in the area for their farming operations. They also did any other trucking, like anyone needing hogs hauled to market and so on. They lived in a tidy little house that was just a few yards east of the building that is there now, which has since been moved away.

They were very friendly young people, we had many enjoyable visits back and forth, we were very glad to have such nice neighbours so close by, just across the road. So, we were not very happy when they decided to sell out and try some other venture. They sold to Mr. and Mrs. Jim Brackney and left here late in the summer of 1948, to move to Calgary where Al had located work with Western Steel Products. While Glen moved out to Sundre to take over a garage business there. He stayed with that a few years then went up north to work on a Seismic project where he met with an unfortunate accident and had his head injured losing partial sight of one eye. He required many months in hospital. Later when he was well enough, he went back to Sundre to garage work.

After a few years in Calgary, Al was transferred to Edmonton with the same kind of work for the same company and he stayed with it for many years. The family still lives there, I believe, as far as I know. We have lost touch with the family the past few years.

Al and Ollie had two daughters, both born in Calgary, I believe. The eldest, Donna was born in October of 1948, shortly after leaving here. And the other one I can't recall her name just now, was born some time later. Both are now married.

Henry and Etha Metz (nee Frickeltone)

Henry was born in McCracken, Kansas, and Etha in Ontario. They farmed at Hardisty before coming to Central Alberta.

They had bought a Motel at Sylvan Lake, but remained there a very short time, they did not like the sort of business, so decided to go farming again.

They purchased W ½ 9-39-28-W4 and N.E.¼ 16-39-28-W4 in the Poplar Ridge area from Otto Tettolowski in 1948. The buildings were quite a ways in from the road, so the Metz family moved part of the



Mr. and Mrs. Henry Metz, November 15, 1958.

house close to the road, remodelled, and had Calgary Power put in.

The Metz family were both hard workers. Etha loved the outdoors, and was a big help to Henry, as she did a lot of the field work. Henry finally had to buy her a tractor of her own.

Now that their two girls were growing up, Etha decided to go back teaching. There was an opening at Bentley that she took.

They stayed about four years on this farm.

In 1950, we had a big snowstorm, we were blocked in for nearly a week. One day Mr. Metz, with team and sleigh, rode the drifts to see if it would carry him. That worked fine, so on Sunday, he and his family rode the drifts by car to go in to Church at Red Deer. They were really hard but they managed very well.

In 1952, they sold the property to the Brewers and the Metz family moved closer to Red Deer, but still in the Poplar Ridge district. They then bought N.E.¼ 22-38-28-W4 from Earl Jarvis, relations of the Archibalds and also purchased S.E.¼ 22-38-28-W4 from Bertha Doig in 1960.

Mrs. Metz now was teaching in Red Deer. Mr. Metz, was a steam Engineer and had worked for years at Deerhome, as well as farm.

Henry was an avid curler and would reminisce for hours on a game he had played and tell you what he did wrong, when he lost out. He won many prizes at Bonspiels around the country. Etha did a fair amount herself.

They sold their farm to Deno Truant and retired in West Park, Red Deer.

Mr. Metz died suddenly, August, 1977.

Mrs. Metz sold the house and lives in an apartment and spends her winters in the United States with her two daughters.

Shirley and Joyce both are nurses. They have both married. Shirley has two children and Joyce, three.

The Metzts are very active in the Nazarene Church.

Levi E. Miller
S.E. ¼ 34-38-28-W4

Levi Miller was born in Waterville, Minnesota, U.S.A., March 12, 1888. His parents, Albert Miller and Minnie Veal, were also born in Minnesota. In 1915, Levi married Josephine Nessett. Josephine was born in Coon Valley, Wisconsin, U.S.A., in 1892. Her father, Ivor Nessett, born in Norway and mother, Rachel Johnson, also born in Norway about 1853. In 1918, Mr. and Mrs. Miller moved to Redverse, Saskatchewan.



Mr. and Mrs. Miller, Verna, Grace, Irma in the corn patch, about 1922.

The following was written by Josephine Miller.
“Will try to gather a few memories of our stay in Poplar Ridge District. My late husband arrived in Red Deer sometime in March, 1919. Our daughter, Verna, and myself arrived three weeks later, about the first of April. My husband wrote and said he had bought land. As there were no buildings on the quarter we bought, we stayed with my husband’s Uncle Bill Gennow and his two boys. The first summer it was the understanding between Bill Gennow and my husband that they were to go into partnership on farming and buying machinery. In the fall, Mr. Gen-

now changed his mind and sold out to Mr. Veal who stayed only a couple of years and he also sold out. He built the house where Percival’s live. Mr. Veal, also, was a cousin of my husband. We had to put up a building in a hurry as we had only one month’s notice. Our shack was a three room log cabin where we lived for a few years ‘till we got a chance to get another house which was moved out from Red Deer and another room added to it.

We bought Mr. H. Philips’ homestead. Whatever buildings had been there had been burned down. The Philips had lived there only long enough to prove up their homestead. There was only 17 acres of open land which we got broken the first summer but too late to put a crop in. This turned out to be a blessing in a way as there were no fences and we found out there was not any barbed wire in Red Deer. The men folks drove all the way to Penhold to get wire. There was no herd law and everybody’s cattle semed to graze all over. We got enough wire to fence in our potato patch and a little garden but the cattle jumped in and destroyed that, too. So we did not even have potatoes to eat that fall. I don’t remember when the herd law came in effect. We managed to get a couple horses the first year and Levi and Jack Tobin used to gather and haul cord and pole wood into Red Deer. There being no gas at that time and everyone burnt coal and wood. They had all the orders they could fill while the sleighing was good. Roads were not good but they managed to go through some shortcuts. One sad thing happened when Levi came back from Tobin’s one night, he found one of our horses outside the gate sick. He brought her home and during the night she died and as hides were a good price my husband decided he would skin her. He found she had marks on the flesh from the prongs of a pitchfork. The vet came out and said it was blood poisoning. That left us with one horse to fill the orders. Mr. Tobin was kind enough to loan him a horse so he could fill the orders.

My husband was a good axe man, otherwise, we would not have survived and of a cheerful nature and not getting discouraged easily. Money was hard to come by during the summer. He used to pull stumps for 10¢ each and break land for the neighbors and later when we got more horses, he used to drag the roads. He also rented land from Arthur Rogers who had 40 acres under cultivation and raised wheat which was a good price at that time. I remember he had to pay \$1.25 a bushel for seed oats and oat sheaves sold as high as 25/\$ in the spring. We sold the hay on one slough for \$100 and this neighbor put it up and did all the work. When we got our quarter fenced, we got some cows which kept us in milk and butter with butter still left to sell. Butter was a poor price compared to what it is now, 17 cents. Eggs went

as low as three or four cents a dozen. During the depression, our neighbors to the north were Mr. and Mrs. Harry Strong. We did not get well acquainted with them as they sold out shortly after we moved there. To the west was G. Norris and to the south, Duncan McBlane. They did not have a house and had to build. The neighbor across the road was Ted Edgington. They did not have a house either and also had to build. They sold out to Dick Edgington after Dick got married. They sold out in a few years. We have had so many changes in new neighbors, it's hard to remember them all.

Our second daughter, Alberta Grace, was born in 1921. Irma in 1923 and Frances in 1924 — all born in our log cabin. Mrs. Sam Hart helping out at the time. The Doctor came out as at that time it was not compulsory to go to the hospital. The first people we got acquainted with were Sam Hart, who used to live where Walter Hart now lives and Mr. and Mrs. Bill Atkins and Ruth who later married Jack Lamont. Gerald Gilbert and Jack Lamont were the only farmers who owned cars at that time.

It was a long time before we got our road graded up and gravelled. Our children went to school on horseback. Sometimes they used to take the shortcut through the bush when it was dry enough under foot which made it only one mile from school. The Belich children used to come that way as they had such a long way to go to school.

We celebrated our silver wedding anniversary on the farm and also our golden one. Now our children are all gone and have families of their own. We lived to be great-grandparents.

There was not much in the line of recreation for some time but we had good times going around to people's homes when someone celebrated their birthday and played games.

After a few years the Poplar Ridge Hall was built, mostly by volunteer labour and donations, so there were dances there. Roth brothers supplying the music on a percentage of the door receipts. My husband, Mr. Kirkland, Mr. McGovern and Jack Demas being on the hall board. I don't remember how many years the hall stood there before the site was sold and the hall torn down. The young people formed a club and named it the Poplar Ridge Sport Club and they used to have meetings and skating parties. After everybody got cars and the young people went to work or to school, I think the club doesn't exist anymore. We used to enjoy the card parties out there. I could write more but I have almost wrote a book now. I forgot to mention church and Sunday school were held in the old school house. Mrs. Reed being a Sunday school teacher and sometimes Mrs. Ralph Wilkins. There was an abundance of wild fruit. Also, a lot of prairie

chickens and rabbits which almost seem extinct now. We enjoyed life on Poplar Ridge and feel it's my home. I know what pioneering is like."

Mr. Miller passed away in Red Deer on August 17, 1968, and Mrs. Miller passed away in August, 1975. Both are buried in the Red Deer cemetery. They had four daughters: Verna, Grace, Irma, and Frances.

Verna Miller married Walter Martin in the mid 1930's. They bought the Miller farm after renting it for several years. Walter farmed it as well as working for the Canadian Pacific Railroad. When he retired from the C.P.R., they built a new house and moved to the farm in 1979. They have two sons, Robert who works for Fuller Austin as a sheet metal mechanic. He and his wife, Joan, live in Red Deer. Other son, Pat, is also a sheet metal mechanic. He and his wife, Lorna, and two children make their home in Sherwood Park. Walter and Verna have four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Granddaughter, Kathleen, and great-grandson, Jason, also live on the Martin farm.

Grace married Flying Officer Bill Young of the R.A.F. on Dec. 24, 1943, in Red Deer. At that time he was a flying instructor at the Penhold flying school. On returning to England, he was on active duty and flew in the Berlin air lift in 1948 as well as taking part in many battles and was stationed at several air stations. They also spent two and a half years in Kenya, East Africa during the first two years of Mau Mau emergency. Wehn Jomo Kenyate, the leader of the Mau Mau tribe, was arrested and flown to a remote area for trial, Bill was his pilot. After 24 years of service, he retired as Squadron Leader and returned to Canada in 1959, settling in Edmonton. Grace and Bill have been active in various clubs. Grace with the I.O.D.E., being elected president of Municipal chapter of Edmonton in 1974-75 and again in 1979-80. Bill with the Rotary Club, elected district governor for 1977-78. They have three children: Beverly, Valerie, and Andrew.

Irma Miller joined the Woman's Air Force in 1943 after attending normal school in Calgary. She went overseas in the winter of 1944 where she met Don McLean, also in the air force. They were married in Linton on Ouse, Yorkshire, at the end of hostilities they returned to Canada. Don remained in the air force and they were stationed in many places in Canada. On his retirement, they settled in Elnor, Ontario. They have a daughter, Donna, and son, Stanley, and two grandchildren.

Frances Miller also married a man from R.A.F. and spent some time in England. On returning to Canada, they spent a few years on the Miller farm and in Red Deer. Later they located in Edmonton.

They have two children, Patsy and Wayne. Frances lives at Whitecourt as does Wayne and family. Patsy lives in Edmonton.

Frank and Enid Mitchell

Frank and Enid Mitchell bought NW ¼ 2-39-28-W4 through the V.L.A. after the Second War. Frank was from Scotland and he farmed with his brothers in Southern Saskatchewan before he joined the Army. He served overseas and on the Continent with the Military Police. He met Enid and they were married in England. They had a baby son who died in infancy.

The Mitchells were hard-working people. Frank's main aim was to pay the Veteran's Land Act for the farm. Some years, Enid worked as a cook at a logging camp and one winter they both worked at a camp in the north. About 1951, they adopted a little boy, Donald, and a few years later they decided to adopt another child. It was while they were on their way to Edmonton to pick up the child that they had a serious accident at Wetaskiwin. Enid had a broken leg which resulted in her being laid up in hospital for six weeks or more. She was a long time getting over the accident. After her slow recovery, they decided to sell the farm to Mr. Hansen and move to B.C. where the climate was more like the English climate. Frank passed away suddenly with a heart attack.

Enid and Donald moved back to Alberta, residing in Sylvan Lake for some time. Enid worked in Red Deer until she retired a few years ago and left the area. All contact with the Mitchell family has been lost since then.

Joseph Mons 1887-1937

by Bea Ward

Joseph Mons was born in Belgium and came to Canada as a youth about 1906. He spent three years in St. Boniface, Manitoba, returning to Belgium to serve his time in the Army. He came back to Canada in 1911 with other relatives. He had a homestead in Cluny.

At the outbreak of World War I, he was recalled to his regiment in Belgium. He was taken prisoner of war and spent three years in German prisons.

He returned to Canada and farmed in the Poplar Ridge area on N.W.¼ 30-39-28 West of the 4th Meridian. It is unknown how long he farmed this land. He had been married and had a daughter.

In 1930-31, Joe, as he was known, came to farm with John De Smet in the Poplar Ridge area. Mrs. De Smet was his sister. Joe was a good horseman — when farming became mechanized he was known to holler "Whoa" to the tractor.

He passed away January, 1937, and is buried in the old Catholic Cemetery in Red Deer.

John B. and Helen Moore (Jack) N.W.¼ 22-38-28-W4th

I came from Lowestoft, the most easterly point of England, my mother came from country stock and my father was a sea captain so in early life I learned to love both country and sea. I grew up on the sandy beaches and holidays were spent on my uncle's farm or at sea with my father.

At the age of 17, after my formal schooling was finished, my father had died and I decided to come to Canada and learn farming. It was about this time that the government sponsored young men to come to this country to learn farming and I was one of them. I went to Olds and Claresholm, coming to the Red Deer area in 1927 where I worked for several farmers in the Poplar Ridge and Shady Nook School Districts with the exception of a year in the Hawaiian Islands and one year in the logging camps of B.C. In 1939 when the war broke out, I joined the Royal Canadian Engineers and went to England and Europe where I spent five years. During the time spent in England, I met my future wife, Helen. On returning to Canada,



Back row, L. to R.: Elaine, Mike Sartor, Allan Moore, Melissa and Gail. Bottom: Jason Sartor, Mrs. Moore, Colin S., Mr. Moore, Allison.

we spent several years looking for a farm and while doing this, two years were spent working for Hal Thompson. In 1948, we bought N.W. 22-38-28 W4th from Byron Raymer. In 1951, we built a home and have lived here ever since.

A trip was made back to England in 1929 and returned to Canada in 1930, stopping off in Saskatchewan for four months. In 1975, I made a trip to Europe spending two weeks in Britain and two weeks in Germany.

I, Helen, was born to an English father and Scottish mother; I was born, raised, and educated around the Reading-Berkshire area of England, about 40

miles west of London. During the war I joined the Womens' Land Army where I spent nearly four years and it was while in the Land Army that I was introduced by a friend to my future husband. We were married in 1945 and the following year in June, I followed him to Canada. I was on the train two days and three nights and thought I would never arrive in Calgary.

I lived for two months in Red Deer before coming to the Poplar Ridge area. After I had been here about two weeks, a lady asked me how I liked Red Deer. I remember saying, "Oh, it's quite nice for a small village." Well, she was most indignant and told me Red Deer was a good size city. At that time it had only about 10,000 people and was from Eaton's corner to Builder's Hardware and the station to the Post Office. Also, about this time, I met Harry Cristie who had owned land here and thought it would be nice if I met some of the neighbours in the district I was going to live, and he was friendly with the Belichs so that is where he took us. He said the road was good, really good, in fact. I had heard how much the sun shone in sunny Alberta. Well, it poured with rain the day I landed and had rained on and off for two weeks and it was about this time I was destined for my first ride in the country. Harry's idea of a good road and mine, coming from England, were two entirely different things. The road was so rutted you would get out of one rut and fall into another. It was just like a ploughed field but the hospitality made up for it when we got there.

It was quite an experience for me as I had been used to electricity, water in the house, bathroom, and gas, all my life and took these things for granted. I had never seen an outhouse let alone used one and I had to get used to a coal and wood stove and oil lamps and hauling water in and out. I felt like a real pioneer.

In September, 1946, our son, Allan, was born and in October, 1947, our daughter, Elaine, was born. Both were educated at Poplar Ridge, River Glen and graduated at the Lindsay Thurber Composite High School. Allan joined the Air Cadets and spent five years with the 24th Squadron of Red Deer where he earned his private pilots wings and flew small aircraft. After graduating from school, he joined the Royal Canadian Navy and after several trips at sea was accepted as a pilot and now flies helicopters in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. He received the Chief of Defence Staff Commendation in 1978 for a daring rescue of three fisherman at sea. He married Gail Van Buskirk, a registered nurse, from Dartmouth, N.S., in July, 1970, and they have two girls, Allison born August, 1974, and Melissa born in February, 1978. They are living on the East Coast where they are stationed.

Elaine studied music and also took a business course. She held a job in Calgary where she met and married Michael Sartor from Mission, B.C., in June, 1969, also in the Forces. They spent four years in Germany where she learned the language and also taught music. Since returning to Canada she has resumed her work and music. Her main interests are her family of which there are two boys, Colin, born August, 1971, and Jason born August, 1973, her secretarial work, her music and the Church where she helps out playing the organ for the services.

James and Janet Murphy

My mother and father, James and Janet Murphy lived in Crossroads from the time of their marriage in 1914 until 1924 when they, along with myself, my sister Margaret, and my brother John moved to Poplar Ridge to SW½ 12-39-28-W4. My brother, Maurice, was born there in 1926.

James Murphy came from Ireland as a young man and homesteaded in the Dakotas. He came west to Red Deer in 1912 as a farm worker.

Janet Murphy, daughter of Fred and Lily Hart, was born in Cross Roads, lived on the homestead with her parents and sisters and received her education at Cross Roads School.

James and Janet Murphy lived on the Hart homestead and farmed the land until the family moved to Poplar Ridge.

The land at Poplar Ridge was purchased from the Brownrigg family. Thomas Brownrigg homesteaded there, I believe. the family built a modest two story house with the assistance of Fred Hart who was a carpenter by trade. The material was salvaged from a building in North Red Deer which the family purchased and dismantled. A log barn was erected with the assistance of neighbours at a building bee.

About half the quarter section was cleared and farmed with horses. The remainder of the land was used for pasture and wood lot. Cattle were raised, also pigs, the cows were hand milked, the cream was sent to the Creamery and the skim milk was fed to calves and pigs.

My sister and I attended school at Poplar Ridge, riding horse back.

In 1927, the farm was sold to Henry Brownrigg, a descendent of the first owner. The Murphy family moved to Creston Valley, in south eastern British Columbia to try fruit farming. Tree fruits, berries, and tomatoes were produced on a small acreage. The family of four were raised and educated here.

My father lived on this fruit farm until his death in 1963. My mother continued to live there until her death in 1968.

Maurice Murphy has farmed this property since 1960. He and his wife live on an adjacent lot.

James and Janet Murphy had twelve grandchildren and a number of great-grandchildren.

by Lucille Samuelson (nee Murphy)

A History of Jim and Lynn Newnham, Box 1, Site 11, R.R. 1, Red Deer, Alberta

James Lascelles Newnham (Jim) and Lillian Evelyn Newnham (Lynn), nee Snyder, came to this district on the 17th of January, 1964, renting property from W. H. Edgar. In 1969, Bill sold them 35.6 acres of the S.E. corner of Section 12, Township 39, Range 28, West of the fourth Meridian, the location upon which they presently live. Living in the country is an opportunity they greatly appreciate.

Jim was born on October 22nd, 1919, at Calgary in a suite above the Commonwealth Press Ltd., a business owned and operated by his father. There were two older brothers; Frank, living in Calgary, George, in New Zealand; two older sisters, Dorothy Rathbun in Penticton, B.C., Myrtle Learmont in Golden, B.C., and one younger sister, Edna in Edmonton. Jim joined the Canadian Army in 1940 and after a period as an Instructor at Camrose, Alberta, went overseas with the North Nova Scotia Highlanders. He served on the Continent from "D Day" until the end of the war after which he returned to Calgary. In 1946, he took over the management of the family business, and with the rest of the family purchased the business from the parents who had retired to Salt Spring Island, B.C.

Jim's father, Francis Henry Lascelles (Frank), was born in England, the son of Lord Lascelles but due to a bitter disagreement with his father, through process of the Courts, changed his name to Newnham. After apprenticing as a printer, he came to Canada in 1913 and became editor of a miners newspaper in Fernie, B.C. In 1914, his wife Peggy Ellen (nee Philips) and three children joined him. The family, which now included a fourth child, moved to Calgary in 1918, where Frank formed and operated the Commonwealth Press Ltd. Peggy died in 1964 and Frank followed in 1975 at the age of ninety-seven.

Lynn's paternal grandfather came from Alsace-Lorraine to Long Island, New York, U.S.A., where he studied and became a veterinarian. Her paternal grandmother and titled Huguenot family fled from France to Long Island leaving estates and wealth behind. Grandmother Snyder had seven brothers, all of whom were ordained ministers.

Lynn's father, Louis Alvin Snyder (Lou), born 11th February, 1880, was the youngest of five broth-

ers and two sisters. He studied and became an electrical engineer. Raised on Long Island, Lou had the good fortune to have as a neighbor, Mark Twain, and as a youth spent many a happy hour on this famous author's front porch sipping lemonade, listening, entranced to wondrous and humorous stories.

A holiday visit to Calgary and area so impressed Lou that he became determined to make the west his permanent home. In 1903, abandoning his original career, he moved out to take a job herding cattle for Pat Burns. He became a naturalized Canadian Citizen in 1905 and purchased his own piece of land in the Three Hills area, where he ran his own farm and ranch operation. He served as Reeve in this district for two terms while living there.

Lynn's maternal grandmother and grandfather came from London, England. Grand Dad Herbert Ash, a finishing carpenter, came to Calgary in 1908 to be followed by his wife, Ethel, (nee Elliott) with three children in 1910. Upon arriving in Calgary grandmother Ash was attired in a pearl grey, fitted, suit with a huge, wired, pink, chiffon hat covered in pink roses. The trip from Calgary to Ghost Pine Creek, where the homestead was located, was made in a horse drawn buggy. The sight of the pretty young newcomer bouncing over turtle back country while attempting to keep her hat properly perched would be something to behold. This initiation to the west did nothing to discourage her, for she felt she had surely reached God's country. It took her little time to learn to handle horses, implements and rifle in order to wrest a good living from the land. Herbert served as Reeve for the Ghost Pine Creek district for 12 years. He was then elected M.L.A. for the district in the first Social Credit Government under William Aberhart.

Lou Alvin Snyder and Ethel Dorothy Ash were married on July 30th, 1917. Lou abandoned his second career when his enthusiasm in the search for oil nearly became an obsession. In order to pursue this new and exciting adventure he sold his farming operation and moved to Calgary. It was here in Calgary that Lynn was born on January 17th, 1920. Her mother, Ethel, a younger brother, Frank Everett, and younger sister, Joyce Lou Cusack, are still residing in Calgary. An older sister, Ethel Margarete, died in 1921 at the age of three. Lou died in 1968 at the age of eighty-seven. Upon completing high school Lynn spent three years training as a gemologist.

After his return from overseas, James Lascelles Newnham and Lillian Evelyn Snyder were married on May 7th, 1947. Jim managed the family business until he resigned in 1961. The business was then sold to Max Bell, the owner of F.P. Publications.

Jim and Lynn moved to Red Deer in May of 1962,

renting a country home in the Hillsdown district from Wilf and Doris Jackson. The new couple felt they had become quite knowledgeable about country living and gardening and believed they had fitted well into the environment and were an accepted part of the community. It came as a great shock to discover that the neighbors referred to them as the "Green Acres Couple."

The arrangements with the Jacksons had been of a temporary nature, so at the end of four months the Newnhams moved to a farm house in the Valley Centre district which they rented from Clayton Brown. Clayton sold his farm thus bringing to an end sixteen happy months of country living in a cheerful and friendly district. It was this change that brought Lynn and Jim to their present location.



Lynn Newnham's drawing on her Christmas cards.

*This is the country we have chosen our dream
We'd spend all week preparing a scheme
To be out in the open where nature abounds
Free from the hustle and bustle of towns
The answer has come to our long time search
We now live in the country, in God's natural
Church.
Our Thanks are for ever on our lips and in
heart,
To the wonderful God who has taken our pain
We say most sincerely and hope it is true
That He continues to look with favor on us*

Jim Newnham's poem.

In the past, as a result of the association with the printing business, Jim and Lynn had always produced their own personal Christmas cards. These would be designed to depict some incident of the year just past. The new house shared its location with a

run down old shack of sun weathered boards which Bill Edgar offered to tear down. Lynn was horrified since she had designated it her beautiful "Tack Room" and decided, therefore, to preserve it forever by having it illustrated on one of these Christmas cards. She spent several hours in 20° below weather in order to sketch her landmark and later persuaded Jim to write a poem about their love affair with country living. It was while she was sitting on a stool in the snow that the oil man came to fill the fuel tank. It's still not known, when he sees Lynn and shakes his head, if he is thinking "Snow Queen" or "Crazy Lady".

The adventures and misadventures of Jim and Lynn are too numerous to record, however, there are two which possibly warrant mention:

Their enjoyment and interest in gardening allowed no weather to deter them and Lynn soon discovered that weeds pulled much easier after a good rain soaking. She would dash out right after a storm and crawl through the mud attired only in a grubby muu-muu. The apparition that emerges from the garden after one of these sessions wouldn't dare enter any house. The only solution was a hosing down outside. This generally necessitated the removal of the clothing in order to do an effective job. Lynn always felt safe during these operations since Jim directed the hose quite close to the front door, well sheltered from visibility. The long driveway permitted ample time to hear cars approach and scamper for concealment. However, no allowance was made for the silent approach of a person on foot. Lynn decided to discontinue the practice after the day our energetic, naturalist neighbor, Johnny Malinic, rounded the corner of the lilac hedge two seconds after she had closed the front door. John had quite a broad smile on his face and twinkle in his eye as he had coffee with the Newnhams that day. Lynn is still wondering if he had made a previous approach from another direction then retreated in the interest of discretion.

The other incident resulted from the habit of hanging fat from the trees in winter to feed birds in the area. It concerns a Downy Woodpecker who flew into the front window, losing consciousness and tail feathers as a result. After a night's rest in a nest Lynn had prepared, the bird recovered everything but his ability to fly. Watching him walk to the base of a tree and climb to feed upon the fat inspired the name "Jack-Ass". A short feed at one piece of fat then a glide to the base of another tree, a walk up that tree to a second feeding spot triggered the two collie dogs into an awareness that this weird bird needed some protection. Any other woodpecker threatening the cripple was immediately chased away, while "Jack-

Ass” could casually saunter by their aristocratic noses in complete safety.

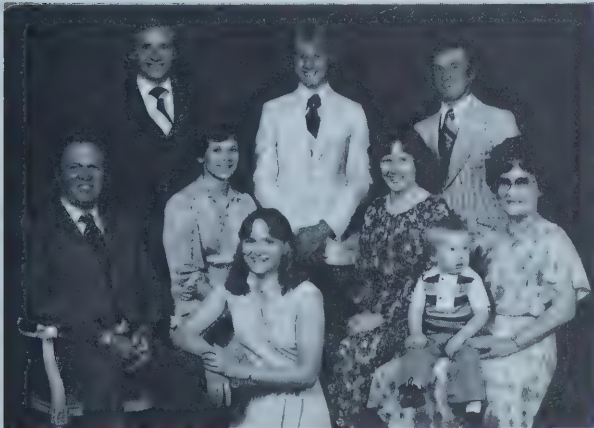
Instinct drove the woodpecker to seek his base nest in the evening. He accomplished this by climbing to the top of the highest tree and taking off on a long glide down the coulee. From each point of landing he would walk to the next bush or fence post which he would climb for another glide. The process was continued until he reached the treed area of his nest. The “Jack-Ass” would return the next day for his feeding and these trips continued for six weeks. On most of his sojourns he was accompanied, through knee deep snow, by Jim and the two collies determined to ensure his safety. During the period close communication seems to have been established and it is felt that “Jack-Ass” continues his winter feeding at his favorite, protective location.

Reference to this incident was made by Kerry Wood, in an article written for the Calgary Albertan, March 31st., 1973, and entitled “The Walking Woodpecker”.

Seven dogs, five horses and one very special cat have been important and integral parts of the life in the country for Lynn and Jim Newnham. It is this association with domestic as well as wild life, enhanced by having helpful, cheerful, contented and above all, friendly neighbors to live among that makes living in the country so wondrous and worthwhile.

Thorvald Nielsen Family

In 1956, Thorvald and Verna Nielsen bought a half section of undeveloped land in the Poplar Ridge District. They began to clear the land and build a house. Work was delayed, however, as Thorvald contracted polio. In 1957, they were able to move into the partly finished house. At this time there were two young sons, Lyle and Dan. Judy arrived in 1958,



The Thorvald Nielson family, 1979.

and Larry joined the family in 1962. Now the family includes Donna, Lyle’s wife, and their little son, Scott; also Marilyn, Dan’s wife.

In 1978 the Poplar Ridge farm was sold to Hans Schritt.

Lance Michael Ninkovich

Lance Michael Ninkovich, youngest son of Bob and Helen Ninkovich, was born in Red Deer and raised in the Shady Nook district where his parents farmed until they passed away. He met his wife, Beverly (nee Schwartz) in High School. They were married July 5, 1958, and lived in Red Deer where Lance had started a drywall business. Lance taught judo for a number of years and earned his second degree black belt.

In 1967 the family moved to an acreage in Shady Nook. In January, 1973, they bought a half section from Willis Wentworth, where they built a new home and moved in June, 1973. They have three daughters: Kim (married to Neil Walls in 1979), Cindy, and Wendy.



Lance, Bev, Cindy, Wendy, Kim Ninkovich.

Since moving to Poplar Ridge, Lance and Bev have been active in the community — helping in the building of the new hall, serving on the entertainment committee for five years, and Lance as president of the Community Association, 1978-79.

Lance still manages Alco Drywall in Red Deer, and is part-owner of Burnt Lake Livestock Mart; as well as operating the farm, where they are building a herd of full blood Chianina cattle.

Joe and Celice Peets

Joe and Celice Peets homesteaded SE ¼ 32-38-28-W4 in 1901. They had an adopted daughter,

Olive, who returned to the States with Mrs. Peets after Mr. Peets died. Joe Peets was related to the Prevo family.

Mr. Carl Soderman owned this property for many years.

Thomas and Sheila Percival

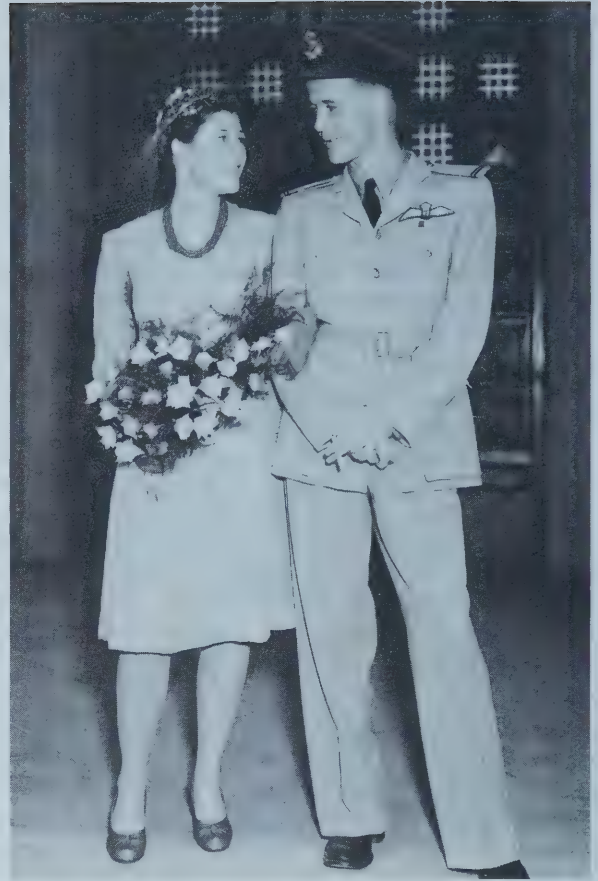
Tom and I were married in July, 1944, in the cathedral in Cairo. At that time, Tom was serving in the R.C.A.F. as an officer pilot in 417 Fighter Squadron having trained in Canada and actively serving in England, through the African attached to the 8th Army, into Italy, and Sicily, and at the time of marriage was an instructor in desert flying at a base near Cairo. I was a sergeant in the S.A.W.A.A.F., attached to the R.A.F. headquarters in Cairo as a personnel records clerk. We returned to Canada together by troopship via England the same year. In 1946, Tom took his discharge, trained for a V.L.A. farm grant, and we ultimately purchased a quarter section of land in the Poplar Ridge district north of Highway 11.



The Percival "shack" the week they moved in. The machine is a wood chopper, April, 1947.

Our first son, John, was two years old the day we took up permanent residence in 1947. As this was our first experience at actual farming, there were many laughs, a few tears, and lots of heart break, and work.

Tom's agricultural background consisted of two years at the Olds Ag. School prior to his war years, one summer working on a farm after his discharge and a six week crash course in the old "army huts" in Red Deer at the present River Glen School location. Starting into farming was very difficult in many ways at this particular time as the civilian production of machinery from the war needs, was as yet in the slow conversion stage. Not having the advantage of coming from an established farm family, we had to depend largely on our neighbours for assistance and the use of their necessary pieces of equipment to put in a crop. Under these adverse conditions and the fact that



Tom and Sheila Percival, Cairo, Egypt, July 1, 1944.

the land had been rented prior to our acquisition of it, it was no surprise that the crop was condemned for weeds that first year. The second year it had to be summer fallowed. The heartbreak came over the next four years when we were hailed out every summer. Despite these setbacks, we were able to stay with it with the aid of a few milk cows, some pigs, and "Thank heaven for chickens". Chickens were not Tom's favorite "critters", so it fell upon me to be their caretaker, and what a process of learning that turned out to be. Our neighbours to the west were Enid and Frank Mitchell — without whose help I don't think we would have survived. Frank had found a design for a homemade brooder called "Mrs. Smith's Nature Brooder", and with his help, we constructed one for ourselves. This brooder consisted of a square hole in the ground, covered by a "Box" of the same size with a hole in the centre for a "Chimney". A coal oil lamp was set under this hole, in the ground, and it provided the heat while off to one side was an exercise run for the chicks. Now, in principle, there was no reason why this wouldn't work (it did for about one week) but "Mrs. Smith"

neglected to tell one what to expect when it started to pour buckets for a week. To save my chicks from being drowned, I covered them with an old, huge, Union Jack flag which Frank brought over. Need I say more. The next day all 150 of my little chicks were dead from asphyxiation. I buried each one of the little critters and sent them on their way to that big coop in the sky with fountains of tears. My first experience with death on the farm.

Somewhere along the way I must have become very hardened when I think of all the poultry that ended up in the canner during the next five years.

Tom was not without his problems either. Not having any grain of our own, Tom purchased screenings as feed for the hens. It was so bad that even they wouldn't eat it, and so, in the following spring Tom tried to get rid of them by burning. The pile was outside the chicken run and damp from the snow so Tom threw on a pail of diesel fuel. In an instant the fuel exploded, caught on fire and flashed back to the pail in Tom's hands and onto his clothing. A human torch in seconds, he reacted by running and belly-flopping into the spring run-off in a low area a few yards away. Tom was very badly burned, but little John, who had witnessed the whole thing thought it was a wonderful "trick" and jumping around kept saying, "Do it again, Daddy!" Tom seemed prone to accidents which were due mostly to the fact that he was not brought up with these hazards. Being a city girl from Africa, I certainly was no help. Neighbourly kindness made the whole experience one that I would not exchange at any price, such as my first W.I. meeting when it poured all morning and our dirt road was a sea of mud and totally impassible. Tom was consoling me in my disappointment when lo and behold we heard a car and there was Agnes and Mrs. Neilson in their "Model A". We slithered and slid all the way to that meeting but I couldn't have been happier had I been going to meet the Queen.

And then there was the woodsawing bee when Tom broke his ankle and so many other things that have since been lost to the rural community.

Tom and I raised three children on the farm — Donald was born in March, 1950, and Frank in November, 1952. Patricia came along in September, 1956, and when she was one month old we gave up farming and moved to an acreage which had been the home of the Wildes. Tom was now employed at the T. Eaton Co. where I had worked for three years, myself. When the Michener Centre (which was then called Deerhome) opened in 1957, Tom started with the government and remained as stock-keeper until his retirement in 1978.

Terry was born in October, 1960. A love for the

farm still in his bones, our farming now consists of a sheep operation on the acreage.

John attended school at Poplar Ridge, River Glen, Lindsay Thurber, one year at U. of A., Edmonton, two years at N.A.I.T. where he received an Honours degree in Industrial Productions. After working in Toronto for a year he entered Kitchener Waterloo University where he received a degree in Engineering. He is presently instructing at N.A.I.T., having married Gail Flewelling from the Lacombe area in 1972. They have two sons — Ian, 6, and Jay, 1½ years.

Donald attended school at Poplar Ridge for one year and then transferred to Crossroads until consolidation. He then attended Riverglen where he aspired to being a pro football player, carrying his dream through to Grade 12 at Lindsay Thurber. He concluded his education at the U. of A., Calgary with a degree in Physical Education. He is now teaching at the G. W. Dawe school. Donald and Linda Cushing became married in 1975. In 1979 they had their first child, Natalie.

Frank started school at Crossroads and upon consolidation attended Riverglen and Lindsay Thurber. After graduating from Grade 12 he spent a winter touring Europe. He then spent the next summer working for the Royal American Shows commencing in Memphis, working north into Canada at Winnipeg, and ending in Edmonton. He joined the staff of the Bank of Montreal in 1970, working his way up to an assistant manager in Brooks, where he left the bank in 1977 to go into real estate. Having married Sylvia Huizenga in 1973, Frank is presently the manager of Wilcox Realty. Their daughter, Lindsay, was born in 1979.

Patricia attended school at Riverglen and Lindsay Thurber. Her interests included the Poplar Ridge 4H Club, holding the office of secretary for one year. In 1975, Patricia commenced work at the Michener Centre where she remained until 1980 and achieving the position of Institutional Aid II. Unmarried, Patricia is planning on a trip to South Africa with her mother to meet the other half of her family.

Terry attended both Riverglen and the Lindsay Thurber and is presently taking up-grading at the Red Deer College and working summers with a paving firm.

Thomas Percival, born in Brandon, moved to Alberta at age one. Attended school in Edmonton. Had one year at U. of A. and one year at Olds Ag. School. Served with R.C.A.F. as fighter pilot for six years.

Sheila Percival, born in South Africa. Spent 2½ years in Egypt in S.A.W.A.A.F. Came to Edmonton

in 1944. Spent one year in Ottawa, returned to Edmonton and arrived to live in Red Deer area in 1947.

Edmund Perrier

Mr. and Mrs. Perrier came from Hemmingford, Quebec, in 1897, they homesteaded the S.E. 10-39-28-W4, now owned by Bill McEwan family, the John McDonald place.

Mrs. Alec Bone and Mrs. Strong were their daughters, also a son, who changed the family name to Du Perrier. They were of French and English extraction.



Baby Edith Kirkland, Mrs. Perrier, Emily Bone; Wilhelmina Kirkland, 1909.

Chris Peterson N.E. ¼ 10-39-28-W4

In 1914, Chris Peterson came to work as a section foreman on the Tanis section of the C.N.R., now called Briggs after a man of that name who carried mail through the district long before there was a railroad. Tanis, as it was known then, was but one mile from the Bone home. There, Chris Peterson met Evelyn Bone and they were married June, 1917, in the parlour of the Bone home.

Some of the guests at that wedding were Mr. and Mrs. Bill Hienan, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Hart, Mr. and Mrs. C. Soderman, Mrs. Soderman — a music teacher played the wedding march on the parlour organ.

They moved to Prentice and lived in the station house there for two years then came back to Briggs where they resided for their remaining years. Since 1914, Sylvan Lake had been their home address. Chris would go to Sylvan Lake for mail and supplies on the hand pumped speeder and later by car. He held Box No. 2 for all his years.

Mr. Peterson could well remember the rugged newly constructed C.N.R. when he first went on the pay roll. The country was vacant and wild looking and very few people around Sylvan Lake.

In 1921, Mr. and Mrs. Peterson bought 134 acres of the town site of Tanis from C.N.R., the rest of the quarter being railway yards. There had been some possibility when the railway was constructed that a town might spring up but ten years later it was abandoned. Mr. and Mrs. Peterson built themselves a house and barn, etc., on their own land. They raised cows and chickens. One year, Mrs. Peterson had 90 day old chicks which someone came and stole, all except two or three.



Evelyn and Chris Peterson; Joe Marshall, best man; Christine Bone, bridesmaid; Edith Kirkland, flower girl, 1917.

They were one of the first group to donate money towards the building of the Poplar Ridge Hall. Also, later again was among the first to help financially to lift the hall mortgage.

They retired on the farm. Mr. Peterson died June, 1970, and Mrs. Peterson, August, 1970. They were buried in Red Deer Cemetery.

A son, Winston, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Peterson after 13 years of marriage.

After their retirement, Mr. and Mrs. Peterson spent a lot of time going to Sim's Auction Mart. Something they did not find time for before as Mr. Peterson was always working and Mrs. Peterson did not drive.

Mrs. Peterson loved to sing and recite poems, usually Dr. Drummonds were her favorite. In the early years entertainment was based on local talent.

Winston Peterson **N.E. ¼ of 10-39-28-W4**

Winston Peterson, son of Chris and Evelyn Peterson, came into their lives in 1927. He received his schooling at Poplar Ridge, a distance of 3½ miles, which he travelled by team and wagon. His first teacher was Miss Helen Neilson (now Mrs. Bob Farewell of Blackfalds), then Mabel Nash, Gordon Mathias and Miss White. He later attended Vocational School in Edmonton and became a heavy duty mechanic. Worked for Union Tractor in Red Deer for six years and spent some time in Antarctic as rig mechanic.



Chris Petersen and son Winston, about 1931.

He then worked in various places.

In 1957, Winston married Betty Clarkson of Medicine Hat. Betty comes with farm background, born and raised there. She is second oldest of four, two brothers and one sister. Betty worked around Medicine Hat as a clerk.

After their marriage, Betty and Winston moved to Red Deer where their three children were born. Debbie was born 1958, is employed in Red Deer. Valerie was born 1960, also works in Red Deer, and Perry, their only son, is still attending school in Red Deer and stays at home. He was born in 1964.

After Mr. and Mrs. Petersons death in 1970, Winston and Betty built a nice new home on the farm and moved out in 1971. The farm is rented out and Winston works for Central Equipment Rentals in Red Deer.

Ken and Judy Phannmuller

Both were born and raised north of Edmonton. Judy from Lac La Biche of Ukrainian descent, her father was a fur farmer.

Ken, I believe, around the Mayerthorpe area, of German descent and farm background.

Ken was employed with the Department of Agriculture in Red Deer. Judy worked for Canada Packers.

They bought about 210 acres from Marvin Wiley in around 1972 or '73.

They moved a trailer on the property and lived there until 1977. While in the district, Shane and Kevin were born.

They sold 50 acres to Bernie Plante who at one time owned Midway Service on No. 11 Highway, and sold N.W. of 4-39-28-W4 to Richard Bjure.

Ken and Judy moved to the Boyle area where they purchased farm land.

Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Phillion **by Germaine Maga**

Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Phillion came from Manitoba to the Lacombe district in October of 1925. Dad worked for the town as a drayman.

The following spring of 1926, we moved to Bentley and he took a job as assistant foreman on the railroad for a period of two years. At this time he started farming. There was no money to buy land but was able to rent. As well as farm, he did custom work such as stooking for local farmers and in the off season he would cut, haul, saw, and split wood. He made himself an outfit that was easily portable by a team of horses. He also hauled rocks by team, the winter of 1929, from the north end of Gull Lake to the south end where they were building a pier at Aspen

Beach. That pier is long gone as the water kept receding.

In 1933, he bought a quarter in the Aspelund district. Mr. and Mrs. Pete Vanderluk now own it. We lived there not quite five years. Dad raised potatoes and vegetables and sold the produce mostly to tourists at Gull Lake and Sylvan Lake. There sure was a lot of work washing the vegetables and bunching them, etc., before they could be sold.

Then, in 1937, he moved to a half section in the Poplar Ridge District which was owned by Mr. Marvin Wiley. Mr. Wiley had shortly before purchased the land from Mr. Emery Demas for the sum of \$4,-400.00. Dad rented the land on crop shares. He raised pigs, cattle, and still did custom work. Mr. Wiley also owned a fox farm and would hire neighbours every fall to kill and pelt these animals so Dad would be one of them. He lived there for four years and moved again.

This time he purchased a half section in the Markerville area in 1941. From there, in 1950, he moved to Sylvan Lake and is still there and retired.

Dad was born in Winnipeg, Manitoba, in 1898. He is third oldest from a family of 13. Mom was born in Grande Clariere, Manitoba, in 1901 and came

from a family of eight. They had three girls: Germaine Maga, who still lives in the Poplar Ridge District and has a family of two, was born in Manitoba; Margaret Clarkin, born at Lacombe, had a family of six and lives at Fox Creek, Alberta; Eva Lentz, born at Bentley, had a family of four and is living in Calgary. Mom died in 1977 and is buried in Sylvan Lake.

Dad still grows a huge garden and takes it to the Farmers market. He loves every minute of it. He still enjoys life and has good health.

Bernard and Donna Plante

Bernard and Donna Plante, nee Edwards, came from St. Paul, Alberta, where they were in the trucking business. They purchased the Midway Service Station from Herb Gilbert in 1968 and lived there until 1976 when they moved to Red Deer.

Their children are Dennis, Dale, Terry, Melanie and Brent.

The Plantes were a musical family and they enjoyed entertaining at the centre.

Don, Sandra and Jason Plunkett

R.R. #1, Site 2, Box 21, Red Deer, Alberta. Poplar Ridge Estates.

In 1969, Don and I moved to Red Deer from Melfort, Saskatchewan. We were both born and raised in Saskatchewan. When we first came to Red Deer, we lived in a basement suite. Don was employed by Ultra Sales and Service as their Service Manager and I worked as a registered nurse at the Red Deer Regional Hospital.

Then, in 1971, we bought a mobile home and rented a lot at Les' Trailer Park, where we stayed for four years.

In 1975, we purchased an acreage just west of the Valleyview Subdivision. While there, our son, Jason, was born in 1977.

Finally, in 1980, we built in Poplar Ridge Estates. Don now works for M.P.T. Developers installing swimming pools and whirlpools. Jason and I spend most of our time around home, although, I do some part-time work at the hospital.

History of the Prentice Family

Lloyd Isaac Prentice came to Red Deer, Alberta, in the spring of 1908 from Rockford, Illinois, U.S.A. His wife, Lois Rose, and small son, Lawrence Albert, then two years old, followed in the autumn of the same year.

Their first home was the Foster Farm on the banks of the Red Deer River and near the Indian Industrial School on the Burnt Lake Trail. Their second son,



Mr. and Mrs. Phillion, Summer, 1930.



Lloyd and Lois Prentice.

Roy Maynard, was born here in December of that same year. They were very enthusiastic about their new home as it was not unusual to see deer about the buildings in the morning and an abundance of birds year round.

In the year 1911 they moved to the Norma School District, locating on the first quarter section west of the fifth meridian, on the south side of Highway #11. Their only daughter, Thelma May, was born here in July of 1912. One year later, in 1913, Lloyd Prentice moved his family one half mile south onto the former Kask homestead. A special feature of this house was a brick wall built full length through the centre of the building. When the brick wall was warm the house was warm and would remain so long after the fires had burned low. Here their youngest son, Wesley Miller, was born in November of 1918.

During those first years in Canada, besides farming, huge supplies of wood was cut on the school section for sale as firewood to home owners in Red Deer. As well, he plowed fireguards along the railway and freighted goods from Red Deer to merchants in Rocky Mountain House with a wagon and four up over nonexisting roads. Also, during the winter months he moved a portable wood sawing outfit of his own construction from farm to farm over an extensive area sawing firewood for farmers and townsfolk alike.

Throughout these years on the farm, Archie Smith, Lute Austin, and his son, Willie, had a threshing machine and did the threshing for him.

In the year 1919, he moved his family into Red Deer, taking up residence in a two storey frame

building on the hill going up into West Park. This house is still being lived in.

In the year 1924, he purchased the first property he owned in Canada, a quarter section one mile east of the fifth meridian and two miles south of Number 11 Highway, lying on the west line of the Poplar Ridge School District. Beginning in 1925, he and his sons built fences and cleared and broke land, moving the family to the farm in 1929. They had to live in a granary until they built a house.

This brought the family history to the depression years when farm produce prices were insufficient to meet the costs of farming, living expenses and taxes. From the winter of 1929 and 30 through to 1936 the family moved to Norbuck, a small station on the Lacombe, Breton, Leduc rail line each winter. Here they cut ties for the Canadian Pacific Railway Co. Also, they cut stove wood which was piled by hand in box cars, along with large quantities of saw dust, and shipped out to the prairies for sale there. During those years a steer weighing in excess of 1,000 pounds did not always bring enough at market to pay the freight. Eggs could be bought from the farmer at 4 cents a dozen, and a wagon box loaded with split wood for the cook stove — one dollar and fifty cents if you were lucky.

Came the year, 1939, and the onset of World War II. Lloyd Prentice obtained a labour foreman's position at the Penhold Airport Construction site. The eldest son, Lawrence, returned to the farm, building a small house on the northeast portion of the quarter, farming the land throughout the years 1940-41 and 42, moving west of Sylvan Lake to continue farming in April of 1943. In the spring of that same year the land was rented to the Stewart Brothers.

Mr. and Mrs. Prentice continued to live on the farm until selling to the Stewarts in 1963. They then bought a home in Breton, Alberta, where they resided until their passing. Lloyd Isaac Prentice passed away September 1, 1966, at 86 years of age.

Lois Rose Prentice followed October 7, 1971, at 93 years, 11 months. Of their children, Lawrence now resides in Victoria, B.C. There were six children: Milton, Thelma, May, Fern, Lloyd, and Shirley.

Roy and his wife Ella, farm at Breton. They had four children: Lois, Joyce, Roy and Gordon.

Thelma lives in Vancouver, B.C., and had seven children: Leroy, Lorne, Keith, August, Jim, Constance, and Wayne.

Wesley's family: Joan, Albert, Betty, and Phyllis.

Wesley attended the Poplar Ridge School as did I and my sister, May.

by Thelma Miller

History of Roy M. Prentice and Family — Breton, Alberta

My parents, Lloyd and Lois Prentice, came to Red Deer from U.S.A. in 1908. I was born in 1909 at Red Deer.

We lived on the Indian School farm between Red Deer and Sylvan Lake. Dad freighted from Red Deer to Rocky by horses.

We started school at Norma school. We moved to West Park in Red Deer in 1919. We went to school in Red Deer and our teachers were Mr. Welsh, Miss Smith, and Mr. Crummy. Then, I went to working for farmers. At the age of 17, I went to U.S.A. to be with my grandmother and worked in the cabinet factory for four years.

I returned to Red Deer at the age of 21 and started to contract logging for Mr. Burrows and Fraspurs at Norbuck for three years.

Then Dad took seriously sick and had to be in Edmonton hospital for a year. Mother and I and Wesley moved back to farm until Dad could take over the farm again. Then, in 1935, I moved to Iola on a farm. I had six milk cows, chickens and hogs. Transportation was with horses.

Then, in 1936, I married Ella Odenbach of Iola. I acquired a team of husky sleigh dogs, trapped in winter months. Lois was born in 1937 and, in 1940, we moved to Buck Creek. Homesteaded. We had a team of horses for power, a cow, chickens, and a garden, wild fruit. We were comfortable and plenty to eat. But, four years of heavy rains, we could not clear and break enough land for the government so we sold what we could and moved to Breton.

We bought a quarter of land in 1944 and, in 1945, I taught our local school. Then, in 1948, Roy took to driving school bus — 13 pupils. Then we bought a quarter of land where we live at present. We have two girls and two boys. They are all married. We have 15 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

We are semi-retired, have beef cattle. We have a new home in Breton so we can retire and live in town.

We attended the Norma school reunion in 1980 and really enjoyed it very much, especially old school chums and neighbors.

Our cattle brand is .

Revesz Family

Mike and Helen Revesz and family moved to the Poplar Ridge area from Lethbridge in 1934. They had a daughter, Lydia, and a son, Louis. For a time they lived on the Hunt place, south of Poplar Ridge school and then on a farm in the Blackfalds area. They moved back to Poplar Ridge where they rented a house owned by Ralph Wilkins. In 1940, Mike Revesz obtained a parcel of land some 80 acres owned

then by John Buga. He then moved a house onto the lot and built a garage which was the beginning of Midway Service. They sold White Rose gasoline and oil products and son, Louis, did light repair work in the garage. They operated the garage for six or seven years then moved back to Lethbridge



Mr. and Mrs. Mike Reevesz, Mid-Way Service, 1945.

Louis and Simone Reveyrand

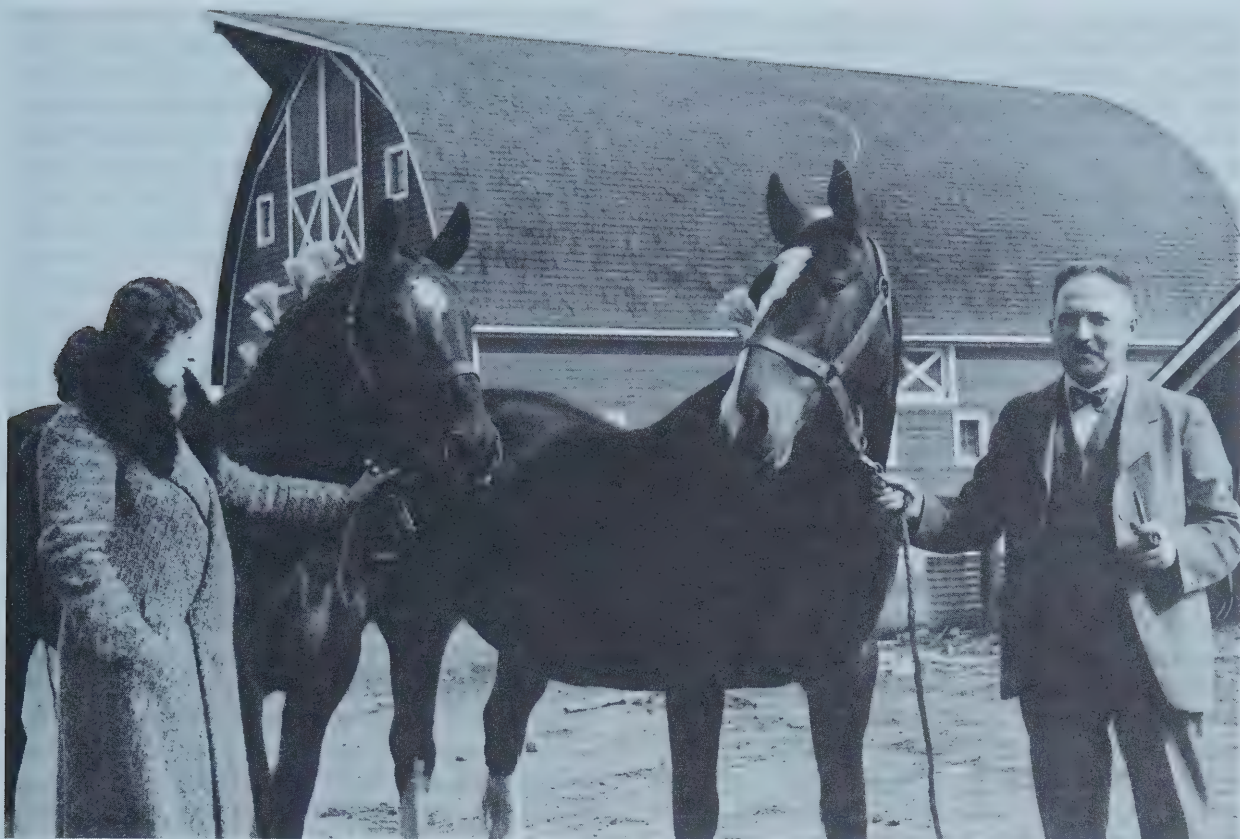
Louis and Simone Reveyrand came from Lyons, France, to settle in the Poplar Ridge district in 1911.

They owned S½ of 26-38-28-W4 and NE¼ of 23-38-28-W4.

A Mr. Lucien Lansery, who worked for the Reveyrands for 27 years, was a carpenter and built most of the buildings on the place, a huge two story house, a big barn, etc.

They had an adopted son, Maurice, who is a school teacher at Kelowna, B.C., also a foster daughter.

Louis died in 1937 and Mrs. Reveyrand sold the place to George Roth in 1943. Simone and daughter lived for two years in a little house on the place, then they moved to Calgary where she died in 1954.



Louis and Jeanne Reveyard, 1927 or 1928.

George Roth later sold his land to W. G. Edgar and R. Edgar.

The big house was moved to Sundre in 1980 and Mr. Edgar replaced it with a nice new home.

The William H. Rich Family at Poplar Ridge District, 1897-1915

Living on N.W. ¼ and S.W. ¼ of Sec. 22, Twp. 38, R. 28

William Henry and Lydia Rich, with a family of six children, came to Red Deer from Lannceston, Devonshire, England. They arrived here on July 5, 1897. Only a promise that there was an ample supply of woodland homesteads in this area caused W. H. Rich to decide to settle here.

William Rich left his Devonshire home at age fourteen in 1874, worked his passage on a sailing cargo ship to Montreal, P.Q. He went to Woodstock, Ontario, to work for his uncle, John Hall, on his farm. After some years, Will managed to buy a small farm at Embro, eight miles from Woodstock. He and Lydia Ludington were married in June, 1882, and raised a family of five children. John Hall born in 1884, Sarah Jane born in 1885, William Dominick

born in 1888, James Oliver in 1891 and David Franklin born in 1893.

Depressed economic farm income and persuasion by an aging uncle back in England caused Will Rich to decide to sell the 85 acre farm in the fall of 1895 for \$1100; and return to Devonshire to operate the ancestral farm. After two years there, old fashioned farming methods, low prices for milk and meat produced, so much hand labour required from hired help and family dissatisfaction; all forced William Rich and family to emigrate to either New Zealand to be near relatives; or go into the newly opened North-West Canada. Special emigrant travel rates favored Winnipeg, Manitoba, with promise of a homestead for two pounds, 4 shillings, or 10 dollars. Later winter preparations were made for the overseas sailing, but upon arrival at Winnipeg in late April, very cold weather and deep snow discouraged the new settlers. No homesteads were available except in the area north of Dauphin, so others in the group decided to travel on westward to Calgary, North West Territory or to interior of British Columbia. Beautiful spring weather welcomed the weary travellers at Calgary in early May.

All the homestead land in the southwestern part

of the Plains seemed to have been settled by this time. After a few weeks searching, a friendly harness shop employee told them about a "real nice woodland area about 100 miles north, "where his relatives, the Washburnes, lived at a village called Red Deer. Rich's decided to look into prospects promised there, so after arrival on July 5th, 1897, a livable log house for rent was found about one and a half miles south-east of the C.P.R. Station, deep in the forest!

Very few homesteads were left unsettled upon; but a few wet, low-lying, heavily timbered quarter sections several miles west of Red Deer were still available. Finding the southwest quarter of Section 22, T.W.P. 38, Rg. 28, W. of 4, unclaimed, William Rich paid his \$10.00 and filed claim about September, 1897. A previous settler gave up his claim to the N.W. ¼ of Sec. 22, so Will Rich preclaimed it for eldest son, John, until he became 18 years of age. About two years later the northwest quarter of Sec. 15, was abandoned by its owner and W. R. Rich paid about \$300.00 down payment for the land for his second son, Billy. Unfortunately, much of the area's timber was willow, swamp spruce or black poplar trees, not saleable for firewood. Any cordwood which could be gathered for sale was difficult to get to market because the town of Red Deer's powerplant and the brickyard furnaces were eight miles on the other side of the mighty Red Deer River. Land clearing was a slow, hard job by hand and horse-power, but in three years time, by 1900, about 40 acres were tillable. The flat or lowlying ground was found to be slow to dry for spring planting and early fall frosts spoiled attempts at growing seed grain. Rich's found that good grass land and wild hay abounded, therefore a herd of milk and beef cows were built up. The Brand Registration for 1903 is enclosed with this story.

Some income could be earned from hay sales to railroad, road construction and sawmill camps for horse feed. I remember hearing Granddad tell about hauling hay into the Great West Saw Mill (Bawtinheimer Mill then) barn in the winter of 1901



John Hall Rich and his team of six horses, about 1910 or 1912.

with the wagon as there was very little snow and having to fashion a load-covering net of rope, twine and willow sticks to keep his hay in the rack.

A log house and barn were built, some cows, four horses, two wagons, a Varsity breaking plow, (it still exists and was donated to the Red Deer and District Museum) and other necessities for survival were acquired. However, one great disadvantage of the Poplar Ridge area which Mr. and Mrs. Rich discovered was that no one was much interested in getting a school established. There were no nearby settlers with children; the nearest public school being eight miles away in Red Deer. Mrs. Rich, having a Methodist upbringing and a good Ontario education, wanted her growing family to have the same benefits. A daughter, Elizabeth, born in England 1896, and two sons born at Red Deer, Frederick 1898 and Joseph 1900 completed the family.

In August, 1899, Mrs. Rich moved to town, into a rented house near the foot of the future Convent Hill; so that the children could attend the public school, nearly a mile away. The proposed North Red Deer School was not built until 1908 about the same time a school house was built at Poplar Ridge.

In the summer of 1901, William Rich bought the first two acres on the southeast corner of S.W. ¼ of Section 20, Mr. Fred Ray's recently sub-divided farm, later to become the sub-division of Fairview in North Red Deer. A log house and a barn were built and the family had a convenient home once more.

John H. had gone to work, at age fourteen, in the fall of 1898 for Robert Page Ranch at Pine Lake, and stayed for two years. Then \$1.25 a day and board for working on the local railroad section gang appeared much better than \$20.00 a month on the ranch. A new construction era of the C.P.R. opened in the Fernie, B.C. division with prospects of much higher wages, like \$3.00 per day and one's board included. John and two friends went out there in 1902 and William Jr. went to Fernie in 1904 or 05. After the Great West Lumber Co. began operations in North Red Deer, both labour income and cheaper lumber were readily available. Also, the cord-wood market for the two large brickyards in south Red Deer offered bright prospects; but W. H. Rich did not have any suitable poplar, birch stand of timber. By chance, one cold fall afternoon Will and Willy were coming back to town with two wagon loads, one of hay and one of wood, one load upset in a slough hole along the trail near the Ted Edginton place, about where the Travelaire Mfg. Plant is located now. Willy went on home to unload his load and return to help Dad get out of his predicament. A stranger drove up and asked W. H. Rich if he could help. "Yes, show me some way I can get downtown with a \$2.00 load of

stovewood and not have to dodge around so many sloughs and muskegs!” In the course of the conversation, Will Rich found that Mr. Johnson had interests in timberland east of Red Deer, a good woodcamp built, a good trail to town leading right to the Brickyards, and was interested in selling the business because they wanted to go to the Klondike goldfield. After some time and discussion, the owners, Mr. Duston and the Johnson Brothers agreed to sell the east half of Sec. 9, Twp 38, Rg. 26, W of 4 for \$2,400.00 plus interest payable over ten years, and the right to cut some wood thereon if they should return to this area. Rich took the first saleable cordwood off this new place in the winter of 1905.

An old record book of 1903 vintage shows sales from the Poplar Ridge farm, with about 75 acres cleared, of hay, oats, some potatoes and stovewood to various people, plus fine pasture for the herd of cattle and horses. Due to the need of more money, the south quarter was sold about 1908 to Archibald. Later B. Raymer owned it. John undertook to pay for the woodland on the Divide east of town and bought it from his father about 1910. William Rich found that travel between home in town, trying to keep hired woodcutters on the job, building a large new house in north Red Deer, and keeping the Poplar Ridge farm going that he was indeed a busy man and in need of a fast team of horses!

After the tragic death of Mrs. Lydia Rich on September 3rd, 1915, at age 53, from being burned in a flash fire in their new home, William had to take a less active way of life. The house, built in 1912 and 1913, at what is now 5516-58A Ave., is still being lived in; Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Johnson, retired farmer from Balmoral District is the present owner, May, 1980.

John Rich knew that he either had to pay for the half section of woodland or get more land in the Poplar Ridge area to make a worthwhile sized farm, so he decided to sell the homestead quarter in the winter of 1916, to help make the final payment for the land east of town. Mr. Alec McBlain bought it for \$2,200.00 and farmed there for many years. The Gilbert family were good neighbors, living about one half mile west. Many years passed before I saw where the Rich homestead was located; about 1939, Dad, Mother and I went to visit Mrs. Gilbert and Gerald and to buy some spruce lumber which Gerald had recently cut from a large stand of fine trees south of their farmyard. They sold the farm soon after and moved into north Red Deer but neither lived to enjoy their retirement for very long. Other neighbors I have heard Dad speak of were Archibalds, Hunt, Raymer, and Reeds. I cannot recall the stories of life on the Ridge as Granddad and Dad could tell them but am

pleased to be able to include a few items of interest from bygone days for the History.

William Henry Rich passed away October 7, 1937, at his daughter's home, Mrs. Sarah Rohrer, at Ogden, Calgary. Age 76. His second wife, Mrs. Ellen Rich, formerly Mrs. McCrimmon, a widow from Lancaster, Ontario, passed away on February 20, 1944, age 94, at her daughter's home, Mrs. James Dingwall.

John Hall Rich continued to operate and was active on his farm on the Divide right up to a few hours before his death on May 31, 1961. Age 77.

Mrs. Annie Edith Rich, nee Bradley, a former school teacher, after her marriage to John on June 28, 1922, lived on the Springvale farm until her passing away on February 24, 1968.

I, John Blois Rich operated the farm for my father and mother, later for myself until selling out to J. T. Morrisroe in June, 1975. I have since married Miss Kay Dosso, R.N., of Victoria, B.C., August 19, 1978. We have retired to live on a two acre hobby farm, three miles east of Chilliwack, B.C., as of June, 1980.

Evan and Vera Robinson by Vera (Robinson) Mottus

Dad was born in Consort, Alberta, and came to the Lacombe area with his parents, Art and Nellie Robinson, in 1937. Mom was born near Nottingham, England, and came to the Red Deer district in 1912 with her parents, John and Rose Kind. They were married in 1942 and rented a farm from Mr. Bloom approximately one half mile south of Sylvan Lake. In 1949, they moved to Poplar Ridge and purchased the east half of 32-38-28-W4th from Mr. Soderman. Mr. and Mrs. Flater had been living on the property just prior to our family moving there.

I started school in September of 1949 (Mr. Barnett taught that year) and my sister, Gail, started the following year (the first year Sam Davidson taught at Poplar Ridge). My brother, Gerald, was born in July, 1949 and Dennis was born in October of 1950. Dennis passed away at the age of three years as the result of cancer.

For several years Dad rented the quarter which belongs to Alf Jones and a quarter approximately three miles north which the Blindman River cuts through. In the mid 1950's Dad worked one summer for a farmer in the Oyen area and Cecil Kind took over the farming duties at home. Dad also worked at the Co-Op Store in Red Deer for about one year to help supplement the farm income.

Both quarters of land belonging to Dad proved to be very interesting. We were told that an old trail which cut through the S.W. corner of the south quar-

ter was part of the old trail between Red Deer and Sylvan Lake. Through the years we found pemmican and Indian hammerheads. On the north quarter was a marker indicating that particular spot was the highest in the area.

My grandparents, Art and Nellie Robinson, moved onto 15 acres on the N.W. corner of Dad's land in approximately 1954 or '55. When Grandma passed away, Dad's brother, Henry Robinson and his family moved there and Grandpa lived with them until going to the Sylvan Lake Senior Citizens' Lodge several years later. This was the first dividing of Dad's land. A few years later Dick and Jean Marriott purchased the south 80 acres of the home quarter and Mr. Holland purchased the south quarter. This left Dad with 62 acres which was sold to Mr. Haslam in 1973.

Mom and Dad purchased a house in Red Deer on 47th Ave. just north of the Plaza Shopping Centre where they still reside.

Gail married Frank Scott of the Benalto area. They had four sons: Randy, Edward, Gordon, and Michael. Gail and Frank were divorced and Gail later married Marvin Evans of the Haynes district. They have two girls: Patricia and Elizabeth. Gail and Marvin now farm approximately 18 miles S.W. of Alix.

I married Cecil Kind in 1961. We had one son Robert. Cecil passed away in 1967. I later married Arnold Mottus of the Eckville district. We have one daughter, Catherine. Arnold and I now live in Red Deer. Arnold is an electrician and works at Canada Packers in the maintenance department and I am nursing at the Red Deer Nursing Home.

Gerald married Brenda Osbourne of the Rocky



Back row, L. to R.: Edward Evans, Marvin E., Gail (Robinson) E., Cathy Mottus, Vera (Robinson) Mottus, Arnold M., Gerald R., Randy Evans. Front row: Gordon E., Michael E., Vera R., Patricia E., Elizabeth E., Evan R., Brenda R. (Gerald's wife) holding Corey Robinson, Robert Kind, 1975.

Mountain House area. They have two boys, Corey and Clinton. Gerald and Brenda live on an acreage S.W. of Rocky Mountain House and Gerald works at Civic Tire in Rocky. Gerald was in the last class attending the Poplar Ridge School.

Some of my memories of school and events at Poplar Ridge:

The Midway Service Station burning down and Andrew Maga saying, "I hope they saved the jaw breaker machine."

Having to give news at school each morning and Carol Bertram saying, "My Dad had a litter of pigs this morning."

And Andrew Maga saying, "There isn't such a thing as Santa Claus."

Louis and Louise Maga, Gail and Vera Robinson and Ben and Ken Demas all riding the same horse home from school. Louis got on last and ended up facing Louise. Going up the hill Ben kept sliding off the back.

The horse drawn two wheel cart Mike Maga made for his family to go to school in. Remember the flat sandwiches from sitting on our lunch bags when the seat was wet. Remember when Martha drove over a freshly paved section of highway #11 and made ruts in the pavement.

Molly Davidson for her care and concern over her husbands students when they were sick, forgot their lunch or whatever. I remember Molly walking some of the students part way home during a blizzard. Her kindness will always be remembered.

The Christmas concerts with some of the girls in white stockings and black boots. Santa Claus was



Mr. and Mrs. Robinson's Golden Wedding Anniversary, children and grandchildren.

never the same size two years in a row. He ranged from 5'2" to over 6'.

Martha and Andrew Maga were left on foot when the horse they were riding decided to lay down and die when they were only about half way home.

Arriving at school on a cold winter's morning and everyone crowding around the one register at the back of the classroom.

Remember when Ruth Johansen was taken to the barber and ended up with a boy's hair cut.

Remember Mary, Betty, and Ruth Johansen dressed in kilts and marching back and forth in front of their father's store playing the bagpipes.

Mr. and Mrs. George Edward Rogers

Mr. and Mrs. Rogers and their two younger daughters arrived in Red Deer on March 25, 1908, from Cedarville, Michigan, where they ran a hotel. They were lured here by the glowing reports of this country by the latter's father, Wm. Hart, and her brothers, Henry and Fred Hart. They stayed a short time with the Henry Hart family and then rented the S.W. 12-39-28-W4 from Fred Brownrigg, the Malinic farm now.

From this farm their older daughter, Maizie, married Fred A. Neilson and their younger daughter, Margaret, attended the Poplar Ridge school. Her teacher was Larue Smith.

The family next moved to the Leedale area where they homesteaded a farm and here they remained until 1920. While here, Mrs. Rogers did practical nursing with the late Dr. Byers, Sr., of that area.



Mr. and Mrs. George Rogers.

Margaret married their neighbor, Mr. George Webb, and they all moved to the State of Washington.

Mr. Rogers, born in Brooklyn, New York, July 28, 1843, and died in Yakima, April 2, 1928. He, at the age of 13, sailed around the world with the famous Captain David Farragut on his last voyage prior to the outbreak of the Civil War. George was a prisoner in the "Libby" prison for six months and was exchanged for two Southern prisoners. He spent six months in Libby Prison, Richmond, Virginia, along with 1200 men at one time who were housed in a large warehouse used for Ship Chandlery and later a tobacco warehouse. The rooms were 45 feet by 100 feet with no heat, very little ventilation.

On Feb. 9, 1864, one hundred and nine prisoners escaped via a tunnel dug with the prisoners hands and boards. Fifty-nine escaped to the Federal lines, forty-eight were recaptured and two drowned.

Many died and the suffering was so intense that death came as a blessed relief. He said, "Many a time, crusts of bread and honey that he had carelessly tossed aside as a young lad came marching across the prison floor to him!" Thus he felt no food should ever be wasted!

Mr. Rogers felt very upset if anyone took more on the plate than they could eat, because he was often delirious from hunger in the Libby Prison.

He sustained a bullet wound to the mouth and throat and a bayonet wound to his left arm at the age of 18 years.

Mrs. Rogers was born in Ste. Phillipe, Quebec, on the outskirts of Montreal on May 26, 1861, as Susan Louise Hart and died in Mt. Vernon in December, 1943.

They are both buried in Mt. Vernon, Washington.

Helen Farewell

George and Hazel Roth and Family

Early in 1908, Bernhard and Helen Roth started to make preparations to emigrate to Canada, the land of promise across the sea. They, themselves, were the descendants of immigrants from the troubled border provinces of Alsace and Lorraine, an area constantly buffeted between the warring nations of Europe, France and Germany. Their loyalties shattered in every generation. The people, themselves, lived well enough together. They mixed and intermarried — developed a distinct culture of their own. With language, customs, and practices that were a part of both, but wholly of neither. This process developed to the point that the people of the two provinces became a distinctly separate ethnic group, resenting the encroachment of both France and Germany but powerless to fend off either.

When Catherine the Great, Empress of Russia,

had the grand dreams of turning the vast richly fertile strips of south and central Russia into the granary of the world, she had first to stabilize the nomadic roaming and gypsy like life style of the Russian peasant and teach them to settle down to till the soil. Hence, her invitation to the people of Alsace and Lorraine to come to Russia to teach the peasants how to farm. They were to get free crown land, 60 desedine (120 acres), for each adult male for one hundred years. Thousands flocked to Russia, some to settle on the Crimean Peninsula; others settled in the broad Dnieper River Valley that stretched from Odessa on the Black Sea to Kiev in the north in a strip more than a hundred miles wide on soil that is by far the richest and most fertile in the world. They were to have freedom of religion, use their own language and schools to continue to develop their own culture without any hindrance.

When Catherine the Great died, the old harshly despotic ruling dynasty returned and all her plans, dreams, and promised reforms were swept out the door. Thousands of the descendants of those early immigrants as well as many native Russians, Ukrainians, Poles, Latvians, and Estonians, crowded the Baltic Ports awaiting ships to take them to the new land. Many went to the United States but most headed for Canada, where the lure of a virtually free homestead (\$10.00) for a 160 acre piece of land together with a remunerative option of another 160 acre piece of land for \$300.00 plus the labor to develop it was available to every adult male. Late in 1909 preparations were complete and the trip across country to the Port City of Libau on the Baltic sea began; first by Troika (three horse stage), then by train through Terespol, Kishinov, northeast to Kiev, then through a looping arc west and northwest to Libau. Here they borrowed a Norwegian Merchant ship to sail down the Baltic sea through the straits across the north sea to Hull, a port on the east coast of England. Then by train to Liverpool. In Liverpool, medical authorities would not pass Bernhard because they found that he had Tracoma (an eye disease), and he needed treatment. Mother was held up because her baby was sick and doctors were uncertain of their own diagnosis. After ten days Bernhard was declared fit to go on, in fact forced to go on leaving his wife and baby behind. The boat or ship that my dad shipped out on along with the rest of the family was supposedly a cleaned and converted cattle boat belonging to the C.P.R. Converted, yes, it now held people instead of cattle. Cleaned? As clean as one could make it with a fork and shovel. The ship reeked of cattle dung and carbolic acid. But it got worse as the cargo passed out of the straits and into the North

Atlantic. Sea sickness overtook 90% of the passengers.

Endless days and nights later, land was sighted and after clearing the Gulf of St. Lawrence, we disembarked at Quebec. Once again we were quarantined, shorter this time than Liverpool. Then on the immigrant train, destination Bow Island, Alberta. Upon arrival, a livery team took us and our effects the fourteen miles south to Uncle Jack's homestead. Here we stayed while Dad hunted for a homestead of our own. Land was getting scarce but after many days of searching with several near fatal encounters with quick sand sinkholes, a quarter section was found with a pre-emptive quarter adjacent to it. By this time Mother had arrived from Liverpool, England, and the baby was still very sick and died shortly after.

A sod shack served as home for sometime; until a frame house and other buildings could be put up. There were rocks to pick, sod to break up for planting. Flax was the best crop on new breaking, herds of antelope still roamed the prairie and they loved flax. My parents struggled here for the next sixteen years against hail and drought, wind and storm, Russian thistle and tumbling mustard, cutworms and grasshoppers, army worms and hordes of Jack Rabbits, occasionally the latter supplied scarce fresh meat, until blister disease made them unfit. Hordes of these big rabbits could attack a stack of precious greenfeed and devour or foul it up in two or three clear cold nights.

Schools were slow in coming to the southern prairies and education was hard to come by, so wishing to pursue a higher education I was forced to leave home to work part-time for room and board in order to go to school part-time. After attending school in Bow Island, Warner, Milk River, and back to Lethbridge, I was able to complete my Grade Twelve then on to Calgary Normal School. I taught at Chinook, then at Highwood for two years in a one room school, with 65 children from grades one to eleven. The pay was terrific, \$450.00 to start, \$500.00 the second year, and \$650.00 for the third year. I was able to pay back Normal School loan, however I had nothing left. I attended Garbuts Business College in Calgary, and eventually secured a job with Winston Supply Co. with a territory stretching from Winnipeg to Vancouver. With the crash of 1929, this company went bankrupt, so it was back to the farm for me.

The rest of the family had given up on the original homestead and moved to the Ross farm 18 miles east of Red Deer, ½ mile east, and 1 mile south of Haynes in 1926. I joined them there in 1928, working as a farm laborer, sometimes at home or at Elsie and

Orvin Woittes or for Les and Justine Maller, a brother-in-law. I also drove truck for Wing Wong who owned the General Store in Haynes. Here I met and fell in love with Hazel Stewart.

In 1929 Dad bought three quarter sections of land that is now the Golden West Subdivision of Red Deer.

I returned to Calgary but work was hard to find in the thirties so back once more to Haynes in 1933. I bought a quarter section on a tax sale, rented another quarter that had a house of sorts on it.

Hazel Stewart, daughter of Frank and Georgina Stewart, was born in Metiskow, Alberta, on March 19, 1915, and moved to Haynes with her parents in 1917. Hazel and I were married November 30, 1937, in the chapel of St. Joseph's Convent in Red Deer by the Rev. Father McNabb. He also attended the small reception given by Orvin and Elsie Woitte for the families. He offered us a ride to Edmonton in his car for a one night honeymoon, and he paid no attention to the tin cans tied behind his car as we took off. We stayed one night (it was all we could afford) at the Corona Hotel, and returned the next day by train.

We set up housekeeping, total cash assets — \$2.55. It was pretty rough, our diet consisted of eggs and potatoes for dinner, potatoes and eggs for supper and for breakfast we had a change, eggs without any potatoes.

Maxine arrived January 31, 1940, in the Lacombe Hospital. It was over 50° below zero. In May, 1940, we moved to the Hayes farm that brother Joe had vacated when he moved to the Bill Hunt place in the Poplar Ridge District.

In 1943 we moved again, bought the Louie Reveyrand farm in the Poplar Ridge district, a full section with the buildings on the south half of 26-38-28 W4th. The land was good and we prospered despite the original massive infestation with wild oats, Canada thistle and couch grass. In the meantime we became involved in many things, too many. Hazel with the Royal Purple and other women's groups. I with the various cooperative boards, Mountain View Livestock Co-op, director of the F.U.A., director of Provincial-Federal Federation of Agriculture, Hudson Bay Route Association, Interprovincial Co-op Society, Canadian Wild Life Association, Ducks Unlimited, Co-op Implements Ltd., President of Red Deer Fish and Game Association, Red Deer Co-op and Credit Union, K.C.'s and Elks Lodge, as well as Councillor of the M.D. of Red Deer.

Son Dale was born May 9, 1945. We, in the meantime, developed a lucrative mixed farming operation with a good income from a fluid milk quota. Even took a flyer at politics as Liberal Candidate in the Red Deer Constituency by-election made neces-

sary by the untimely death of David Ure, who was then Minister of Agriculture in the then Social Credit Govt. of Alberta. That election was won by Cam Kirby, a local lawyer, who is now a Judge of the Supreme Court of Alberta.

In 1953 the roof fell in. In a routine test of all cattle in the area made necessary in an effort to establish a T.B. free area, our herd tested almost 90% positive; ironically, I was one of the chief promoters of the idea in the first place. In subsequent and follow up tests more and more of our herd tested positive until all were gone, shipped to slaughter houses and butchered with little salvage and only \$40.00 for grade and \$50.00 for registered animals, in government compensation. As a result we lost thousands of dollars. More money had to be spent in cleaning up all areas where the disease might lurk. Some old buildings had to be burned as there was no other way to clean them, and the farm was under quarantine until Federal Veterinarians were satisfied that the place was clean. And, of course, no cattle could be kept there in the meantime. So, in the space of a few months we lost our excellent income but also the base from which it was derived. For the next two years we were troubled with late wet springs, grain aphid infestation, early snows and wet harvests. In August of 1956, we sold out to the Edgar Brothers and moved to Red Deer, bought a comfortable just completed new home at 4719-43A Ave. in the Grandview district where we still live.

In Red Deer, we bought from Joe Morrow a small garage and service station, "Purity 99" on Gaetz Avenue, and took over the American Motors Car Agency; I still see occasionally some of the Ramblers and Ambassadors that I sold more than twenty years ago. Also took over the Cockshutt Farm Machinery Agency when Nigel Lawrence quit. Cockshutt has since been absorbed by White Truck Manufacturing Corp. By 1963 we had resold both. Service Station to George Polis and the Farm Machinery to H. Barton. We developed and rebuilt, on some property we owned, an apartment complex. This turned out to be a wise and profitable move and we still own and operate it today.

After a lifetime of strenuous activity, time on your hands becomes a handicap, but we have used it liberally to travel. Hazel spent some time in Europe with Maxine and Ronny while Ronny was teaching with the Canadian Armed Forces, first in Brunsum, Netherlands and Lahr, Germany. They travelled from the north sea coast to the Mediterranean sea port of Barcelona and back to Ostend, Belgium. I took a round the world trip with Windjammer Cruises, 64,000 miles, stopped at 240 ports of call at all the little used out of the way places in the Pacific. I was in

parts of Asia, Africa, Australia, and South America. It was exciting, often dangerous, sometimes hungry, sometimes lost in a little tub only 150 feet long and 33 feet wide with 78 other passengers. The ship was finally stranded in Antiqua through court seizure for unpaid debts by the owners.

Later, we took a trip across Canada to Newfoundland and back via Motorhome owned and driven by my brother, Joe.

I'm slowing down now, outside of occasional trips out west for some fishing. That, too is petering out with age, as arthritis and rheumatism is taking its toll.

Hazel Roth's Family

My dad, Francis Stewart, was born in Yorkshire, England in 1879. He came with his folks to North Dakota in 1883, some years later they moved to Haynes, Alberta, and settled on a farm six miles east of Haynes. My mother, Georgina (Nichols) was born in Saginaw, Michigan, in 1883. Her parents moved from Michigan to Haynes in 1896. They settled on a farm two miles north of Haynes. Mom and Dad were married June 9, 1903, in Lacombe, and they travelled there by team and wagon. A year later my brother Fred was born, my parents moved to Metiskow, Alberta. My sister Elsie, and myself were born there. In 1917 we moved back to Haynes. I grew up in the Haynes district. My brother Fred passed away in 1972. My sister, Elsie, and her husband, Orvin Woitte, live in Kelowna, B.C.

Our daughter, Maxine, was married to Ron Laughlin of Drumheller in 1964. They lived in Delia where Ron was vice-principal of the Delia School. Kari came along in November, 1965. In 1967, they left for Europe where Ron taught school with the Department of National Defence for three years, one year in Holland, and two years in Germany. They returned to Delia in 1970 and Ron assumed the Principalship of the Delia School. Krista arrived in January, 1971. In 1974 they were off again to Fort McMurray, where Ron received the Principalship of the Peter Pond Jr.-Sr. High School which later became the Fort McMurray Composite High School. In 1977, Ron was appointed Principal of the Ponoka Composite High School.

In April, 1980, Ron decided to try a new career and is presently Manager of Training with Baltic Drilling out of Edmonton.

They live on a small acreage 25 miles west and north of Ponoka in the Sylvan Heights area. Their daughters are very involved in the 4-H Lighthouse Club and spend most of their spare time riding and training their horses. Ron has been very active in hockey and baseball most of his life and continues to

play both sports. Maxine enjoys curling in winter and gardening and fixing up the yard. Both girls attend school at Sylvan Heights School.

Dale joined the Navy in 1962 and after basic training in Cornwallis, N.S. he was posted to Esquimalt, B.C. In 1963, he married his high school sweetheart, Janet Robert. While they were living at the coast, Tom came along in 1965, later that year, Dale received his discharge and they moved home to Red Deer. Todd arrived in 1966, and Tricia joined the boys in 1969.

In 1976, they moved to Drumheller where Dale and Janet took over the Co-operators Insurance Agency. They continue to reside there, and all three children attend St. Anthony's school. The boys spend most of their spare time at the Golf Course, but they are all keen golfers and enjoy camping and fishing out in the West country.

Joe and Jean Roth

Joe is the fifth child of Joe and Dorthea Roth. He was born at Haynes in October of 1939 and moved to the Poplar Ridge District in the spring of 1940 to what is known as the Hunt Place. In 1945, he moved with his parents to the farm where they now reside. Joe attended school at the Convent and later at Montfort. When Joe was a year and a half old, he got a carpenter set for Christmas, he used the hammer to knock out



Kerry, Jean, Rose, Joe and Bonny Roth.

his sister, Marie's, two front teeth at the prompting of his brother, Jack. The summer when he was two he scared ten years off his Mother's life when he calmly led the bull from the barn to the water trough and back again. The bull was kept tied in the barn because it was so mean and no one was safe when it was loose but Joe proved them all wrong. In 1952, he had a bad accident in which he lost a toe and part of his foot to a buzz saw. He was in critical condition for some time in the Red Deer Hospital. His Uncles Ralph, George, and Ben and Hal Thompson sat with him for many hours. Without the care and stubbornness of Dr. Bunn, he would have lost his leg at the knee but Dr. Bunn stuck to his guns and after 18 months in a cast and several operations he is walking on two legs. Over the years, Joe has spent seven years driving truck in the oil field. This took him all over Alberta, Saskatchewan, and parts of the United States and as far north as the Arctic Ocean. He was also with Case for three years and three years with Versatile. In 1970, he started farming with his father-in-law, Hal Thompson. In 1961, he married Jean Thompson, the eldest daughter of Hal and Aillie Thompson. They have three daughters: Yvonne (Bonnie) born in 1961, Rose born in 1963, and Karrie born in 1966.

Jean was born in Red Deer in 1942 during one of the worst blizzards in many years, and was raised on the farm where her grandfather, Jack moved to in 1923 and her father and step-mother, Loretta, still live. Jean was always a tom-boy and was much happier out feeding the calves, bailing, or hauling grain rather than peeling potatoes for supper or canning tomatoes in the middle of the night that an Uncle had sent from B.C. Jean was active in 4-H for many years and held all the offices in the club at one time or another. She also studied piano for many years with Mrs. Borrell in Red Deer. When Jean was about two years old she caused quite a furor in the district for a few hours when no one could find her. She was sleeping in the top shelf in a kitchen cupboard and crawled out when she woke up but not before a search had been launched.

Jean started school at Poplar Ridge in 1947 with Nadine Haluschuck (Morrison) her first teacher. A fond memory of strawberry ice-cream at the teacherage punctuates this time. The year 1954 saw the transfer of the Grade 7 and up from Poplar Ridge to River Glen. Being the only Grade 7 student at Poplar Ridge and being either very smart or very lazy, Jean found herself with spare class time in which she planted the spruce trees which now decorate the front of the Community Centre. Jean graduated from L.T.C.H.S. in 1961.

In March of 1951, a severe blizzard hit our area. Jean and her sister, Beth, had spent the weekend with

Fred and Daisy Harvey while their parents, Hal and Aillie, attended a Dairy Convention in Calgary. Walking the half mile home was quite a thrill with only a few feet of the telephone poles showing above the drifts. It took George Schilltroth and his D-8 Cat three days to plow the road from George Roth's to the Thompson gate, a distance of a half mile. During the polio epidemic all the district students sold Advocate subscriptions to get a doll to give to Louise Maga who had contracted the disease. Oh, how they all wanted that doll! An early spring rain one year caused a great deal of trouble for the parents of the community but what fun to skate up and down the road. In 1959, the Poplar Ridge Youth Group put on a play under the able direction of Flora Bahler. The production called "Go Ask Alice" played to fairly good audiences at Poplar Ridge, Spruceview and Blackfalds.

In April of 1961, Jean married Joe Roth. We lived in a small trailer in Joe's parent's yard. The community put on a shower for us and after being run around the hall for an hour after everyone left, we finally got home to our little trailer to find all sorts of strange things had taken place during our absence, such as corn flakes in our short sheeted bed where Joe promptly put his foot through a brand new sheet. An hour later we had company, of course, Ruth Stewart (nee Johanson) who was one of the guests didn't know anything about these strange doings but she mentioned as we were having coffee that she hadn't noticed the budgie hanging in the corner before. Very confusing.

In April of 1963, we bought a house in Oriole Park where we made many new and lasting friendships but "You can take the boy from the country but you can't take the country from the boy", and we were soon looking for a home in the country. Bonnie attended kindergarden in Fairview while we were in town. In April of 1967, we bought the Roy Archibald home and nine acres and moved in May. During our three years in town, we spent all our spare time at the Thompson farm helping wherever help was needed. In the fall I hauled grain for both Grandpas. The years 1967 and 1968 were hazardous years for us as the kids got every communicable disease going so we were under quarantine for almost the whole year. Karrie ate out of the dog dish once too often and Laddie bit her. That cost nine stitches to close the gash in her lip. Rose tried to get on Uncle Garth's Honda and burnt her foot severely which required the use of a wheel chair for three weeks. Much to her delight and everyone else's sore toes. In the spring of 1968, we lost our garage and car to a fire. Despite all these happenings, we surely did enjoy our return to country living. The kids wanting to get the eggs out

from under the setting hen after three days to break them and get the chicks out. The thrill of our first calf and most of all the peace and quiet. Bonnie started school in 1967 at Montfort, and being Centennial Year, she got a Centennial Maple which flourished. In 1968, was our first long vacation with the children and Rose wanted to know where the tunnel was to get through the mountains. 1970 saw us begin farming with Hal Thompson and in the fall of 1971 we moved over to the home place. In 1972 we had a house moved down from Edmonton and we moved into it in the fall. The spring of 1973 saw us landscaping and Bonnie insisted that we dig up her Centennial Maple and bring it home. So, armed with shovels and tubs we dug up the 15' maple and brought it home. Much to my surprise it grew and holds place of honor in the center of our yard. Last year a survey at Bonnie's school showed that maple, to be one of two that are still alive.

We have been busy with various activities and clubs. Joe has been Wheat Pool Rep. for this area for two 2-year terms. He is also president of Unifarm District #103 which keeps him busy in the winter. We are also active in the Central Alberta Sideband Club with Joe holding the Sec.-Treas. position this year. I am the very new and shaky president of the Farmerettes Curling Committee and secretary-treasurer of Unifarm. With my handicrafts and curling bonspiels, I am kept busy.

Our brand is  -left shoulder.

George and Grace Salomons

George and Grace Salomons were born in Holland and came to Shackleton, Sask. in 1928.

Their first daughter, Jennie, was born in the fall of that year. There were two other daughters, Willie born in 1930 and Kathy in 1936. There were also three sons, Sam born in 1931, Harry in 1933, and Herman in 1935.

The drought and the depression brought the family to the Poplar Ridge district, where George bought the S.E. ¼ of 3-39-28-W4 in 1940. All the Salomon's children attended Poplar Ridge school and Helen Neilson was teaching when they first came to the district.

The old log house they moved into was complete with air conditioning and the children's feet were washed early in the morning when they stepped in the snow that filtered in past the chimney.

Some passers by on the highway stopped in one day when they saw a W-30 tractor running in circles in the field unattended. They found that George had overhauled the tractor and in order to seat the rings had tied the steering wheel to the seat, and the tractor went around by itself.

Grace passed away in December of 1954 and George passed away in July of 1958. Sam remained on the home place after George passed away. In 1962, he sold to Harley Stamm.

Jennie married John Talsma in 1951. They lived one year in Red Deer, moving to Bentley where they own and operate Talsma Welding. They have six children: Gerald, Albert, Douglas, Sidney, Margaret and Thelma. Gerald is married and lives east of Lacombe, Albert is married and lives in Bentley. Douglas lives in a trailer on his uncles farm west of Blackfalds. Sid is married and lives in Bentley. Margaret is unit clerk in the Royal Alex Hospital in Edmonton. Thelma is married and also lives in Edmonton.

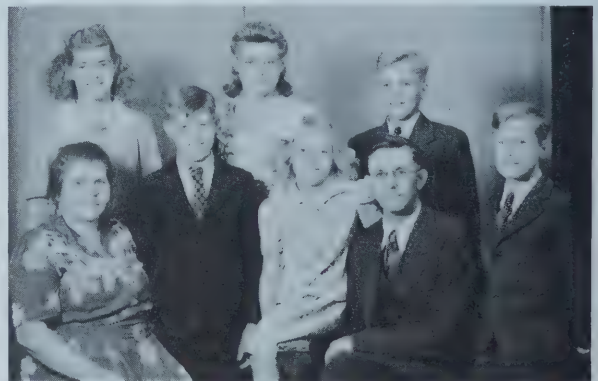
Willie married Neil Reitima in 1954. They lived west of Lacombe for five years and then moved to Bentley where they own and operate the feed mill and Bentley Farm Supply. They had six children: Ben, Grace, Ron, Winnifred, Debbie and Linda. Ben is living on an acreage north of Bentley. Grace is married and living on a farm west of Rimbey. Ron was killed in a car accident in January, 1979, near Innisfail. Winnifred, Debbie and Linda are still at home.

Sam married Janet Boogman in 1962. They have four children: Joline, Edna, Tony and Edward. They are all school age children living at home. They farm west of Blackfalds.

Harry married Ruth Rooz in 1964. They have four children: Gregory, Brian, Robert, and Heather. They are all school age and living at home. Harry is an electrician in Edmonton.

Herman married Alice Verbeek in 1962. They have four children: Elizabeth, Sharon, Timothy, and Caroline. They are at present living in Delta, B.C., where Herman is a minister with the Christian Reformed Church.

Kathy married Joe Plantinga in 1964. They have



Back row, L. to R.: Willie, Jennie, Sam. Front row: Grace, Harry, Kathy, George and Herman Solamons.

five children, Marlene, Sandra, Karen, Beverly and Allan. They farm at Blueberry Mountain in the Peace River country.

Schritt, Hans and Linda (Schrag) **N.E. 30-38-28-W4th.**

Hans Schritt was born in Konigberg, Newmark, Germany, the oldest son of a family of four children. He went to Agriculture school and worked on a farm before coming to Canada in 1952 to the Bentley area where he also worked on a farm. Hans was working at Nordegg building at the mines when they were closed down so moved to Red Deer. Linda was born in Geislingen Steige, Germany, and immigrated to Canada in 1952, also to the Bentley area. She worked for the Alfred Haarstad family until they retired.

Hans and Linda had both received their farm jobs through the Department of Agriculture. Linda moved to Red Deer where she worked at the Provincial Training school. Her mother and five younger brothers came to settle in Red Deer in 1953. Hans and Linda were married in Red Deer in 1954. Hans worked at Red Deer Motors and later as a painter. Their twins, Karen and Barbara, were born in 1956, Heidi in 1960, and Todd in 1962. They purchased an acreage from Mr. Fred Harvey in 1967, and built their new home before moving into Poplar Ridge. Hans then began building a large hog complex.

They have purchased three quarters of land from Thorvald Nielsen on which Heidi and her husband, Glen Massey, now reside.

Linda's uncle, Alfred Mueller, retired after his wife passed away, and moved here in 1975 from Newbaline, Wisconsin. He lives with the Schritts and enjoys helping around the house and farm.



Back row, L. to R.: Karen, Heidi, Barb. Front row: Hans, Todd, Linda Schritt.

Karen is married and lives in Calgary, Barbara and her family in B.C., and Todd lives at home and farms with his father.

Hans has now built another large hog barn so is kept very busy. Linda grows a big garden every year and is noted around the neighborhood as being an excellent "baker". She has also enjoyed making a number of trips to B.C. to visit her grandchildren.

Scott, Art and Anne

Art Scott, born at Dundalk, Ontario on May 24th, 1895, came west on his own at the age of thirteen, which is commonly called running-away-from-home. He was the youngest of a family of nine children. He decided the west sounded exciting so he went to an uncle's place at Cayley, Alberta. He withstood a fall and winter of hard work, pitching and stooking bundles, getting up around 4:00 a.m. to haul coal by team and wagon or sleigh, and many other tasks around the farm. To further discourage him, his uncle sent his wages, which were 25¢ a day, to his father in Ontario. So Art returned home for another few years. Meanwhile an older brother had moved out to Empress, Alberta, so at an early age, Art set out for the west again, this time to his brother, Frank. They set up a partnership in a garage and were doing well until it burned down.

Art played first base for the Empress hard ball team. Their team was well known and would travel around to all the towns to play ball.

In the meantime, on November 11th, 1925, Art met and married Anne Nuttall from Maple Creek, Sask. She was a rancher's daughter and loved the out-of-doors.

Anne was the third youngest child in a family of nine. Her mother died shortly after the birth of the ninth child. A few months later people from New York State, who were in the Sask. area buying cattle at the time, adopted this child. Sixty-two years later this same child, Isabel, met her own family for the first time since being adopted. The family had located her in 1944 but were told not to tell her because she fully believed her adopted family was her own. After the sixty-two years an (adopted) niece told her the truth and the happy reunion began.

After the garage fire Art farmed north of Empress for seven years. He did custom threshing during the Depression and moved to where the crops were around the Wetaskiwin, Alberta area. For a number of years the family, four in number now, moved around Alberta and Sask., Art doing custom trucking and many other types of work.

In 1944, they moved to Red Deer — into a house that, were it standing today, would be on 67th Street

and the Old Calgary-Edmonton Trail. A big willow still stands there that was once in their back yard.

The two Scott children, Joan and Keith, then eleven and ten years old, had to walk two miles to school at Crossroads instead of a mile into Red Deer, because the Burnt Lake Trail, (now 67th Street) ran on the south side of their property.

In May of 1945, Art and Anne bought a farm, N ½ 12-39-28-W4, from Mr. and Mrs. Ralf Wilkins. The farm is actually situated in the Poplar Ridge district, just across the municipal road from the Crossroads district. So the children were allowed to continue their schooling at Crossroads because they were already established there.

This time school was three and a half miles away so some way, other than walking, had to be found. Fortunately, Mr. Wilkins knew where to find the old school horse their daughter, Kathy, had used to go to school. So "Tony" began life as a school pony again. He had taken Kathy to Poplar Ridge for a number of years, so for the first couple of weeks the Scott children had him, he would go to the end of the road and then refuse to go to Crossroads. So every morning a battle went on until the Nolan boys, Charlie and Glen, arrived on their horse to lead "Tony" a ways down the road to Crossroads.

After World War II, Lee, the eldest son who had been in the navy, came home to help with the farming. Jean, the eldest daughter came home after taking a business course in Calgary. She hadn't finished high school so she returned to school at Poplar Ridge.



Keith Scott, age 14, and dog, Margo, killed this coyote with a stick in 1948.

Jean remembers Miss Anderson, a teacher at Poplar Ridge at the time, a very dainty, petite lady of some years experience at teaching — gentle yet firm with a "no-nonsense" way of dealing with teenagers. The school newspaper was an interesting project that many of the students worked on. Because of her previous business training, Jean did the typing of the paper. Others taking part were Mary Stewart, Roberta and Frances Pearson, Jenny Solomons, Mary Soley, Joan Harvey and Evelyn McGovern.

Living on a farm can be full of experiences and one of these times was one summer evening just after retiring for the night, Anne and Art were startled by a gigantic snort at the bedroom window, which was wide open except for the screen. Anne was so frightened she jumped out of bed, but on the side right next to the window. It was moonlight enough to see what had made the noise — a Jersey bull in full fight.

After clearing the flower boxes off the outside window ledges the bull worked on the front door. At this point Anne and Art had made the stairs in a panic expecting him in the living room at any moment. But for some strange reason the door held. (His horn marks remained on the door until the house was demolished years later.) Then the bull moved on to the tractor where a coat had been left hanging from the seat. This he threw in the air and trampled, bellowing all the while..

The two older children, Lee and Jean were arriving home that evening and Anne and Art were afraid they would drive into the yard and be attacked. Fortunately they didn't arrive until some time later.

The border collie was turned out to move him on, but even though she was a very good cattle dog, she couldn't move him. After a valiant effort she came around to a side door and scratched to get in.

Because there was no phone at the farm, the Scott's had to wait until he had made his way to the barnyard before Art could get to his truck to go for the neighbor, Frank Soderberg, who owned the bull. By this time the bull had upset plant pots, rolled barrels into a nearby coulee and tackled everything in his path, a couple of hours had passed and the rage was beginning to fade. The bull had been trained with a pitch fork so when Frank came for him, he didn't have any problem taking him home. The reason for the rage was that some children from town had been teasing him on their visit to the farm.

This was an evening the Scott's didn't soon forget.

Another experience was one day Art took the tractor into a coulee to bring some barrels of water to the livestock. As he was making his way back up the hill, the tractor rolled over twice, came up on its wheels again and continued on up the hill, driverless.

Art ran after it while trying to figure out what happened. Fortunately he was unhurt.

Another time they owned a horse called Kilroy. He got his name from the famous character "Kilroy" in the saying "Kilroy Was Here". The first night he was brought home he was tied in a stall in the barn and the door closed. Later, returning to the barn to show him to a friend, Anne opened the door to discover the horse wasn't there. After some searching the horse was found but it was a mystery as to know how he got out when the door was still shut. Someone soon realized he had pushed the big sliding door straight out and passed under it.

He was true to his name because no matter what devices were applied, he almost always got out of his shackles or found a way around them. Because he jumped fences like they weren't there, he was tied to a heavy weight but he soon learned to manoeuvre it close to the fence and then jump over. Even tying his head to his front foot didn't help, he could still clear the fence. He was a lively horse to ride so his peculiarities were put up with, until, one day thirteen year old Joan was riding him without a saddle and the chin strap on the bridle broke. She noticed just before Kilroy realized it so they stopped and the strap was replaced with Joan's belt. This was fine for about a mile, until the horse realized it didn't hurt, so off he flew. Joan tried pulling him around with one rein, then sawing back-and-forth with both reins, then covering his eyes, none of which worked. As they bore down on the gateway, going as hard as the horse could run, Joan raised her foot to miss the gate-post and Kilroy turned to the inside of the road at the same time. This left Joan in mid-air and after a complete backward somersault on the ground, she picked herself up to find she had only sprained an ankle.

Kilroy found a new home not long afterwards.

The Scott children grew up, married and moved away.

Lee, the eldest, married Velma Wallace of Coronation, Alberta in September 1951. They have five children and they live on a farm south of Bentley, Alberta. Lee has combined farming with being a conductor on the C.P.R. for 32 years.

Jean, the eldest daughter, married Douglas Jardine of Red Deer, November, 1949. They have six children and they are living on Vancouver Island.

Joan, the third child, married Murray Lamb of Calgary in February of 1954. They have three children. After many years in Calgary, they are now living on the old Scott farm in the Poplar Ridge district.

Keith, the youngest, married Rosemary Doonan of Maple Creek, Sask. in March of 1975. They have

no children and they live on an irrigated farm south of Medicine Hat.

Anne and Art left the Red Deer area in 1961 to be with Keith who had bought a farm in the Leslieville area. Then after spending some years in Calgary, they are now, once again, residing in Red Deer.

Art is a veteran of the First World War.

Bill and Annie Smith

Smith, Bill and Annie (nee Neavis) homesteaded SE ¼ 30-38-28-W4 in 1902. They had four children: Fred, Sandy, Archie, and Bea. Bill and his son were cutting trees when a tree fell on him, cutting his head badly and he bled to death before medical aid could be obtained. Bill Smith's daughter, Bea, married Bill Austin. Mrs. Smith later married Bill Prevo who homesteaded on the Jack Cuddihy place.



Taken from tin plate. W. Smith on lower right.

W. T. Smith by Germaine Maga

William Thomas Smith was born in Hackney, England, in 1890.

His family consisted of one brother who predeceased him several years ago.

Bill received his schooling there 'till sixth stand-

ard (British Grading) which equals seven years of education.

For two years he was employed as a bank messenger in the Charter Bank of India in England.

In 1907, he sailed to Canada on ship "Siberia" a 17 day trip and landed in Halifax.

He worked for three years in Ebernathy, Sask., on his cousin's farm.

He recalls, "To get a job you had to go to town to a type of job placement centre where jobs were available were posted on a bulletin board. You would pick a job you liked then pay a dollar for the address."

Bill had papers as Third Class Engineer.

He then went to Proctor, B.C. His first job was in a store then later found work on a tug boat on Kootney Lake hauling freight and railway cars on barges across the lake to Nelson. There were no rails then.

Finally acquired work in a sawmill as engineer.

In 1914, he joined the Canadian Army Infantry and was taken overseas, October of that year. He was in France and Belgium. On May 24, 1915, he was captured by the Germans. He worked on German farms as a prisoner until the signing of the Armistice, November 11, 1918. He was released one day before Christmas and left Germany the day after Christmas and returned to England.

He stayed in England three months in which time Bill got married.

When Bill left B.C. to go to war, he had left his tools at a friend's place, Mr. James Galbraith. In the meantime, year 1916, James came to the Poplar Ridge District and bought land N.W. ¼ 10-39-28-W of the 4th M., now Sam Bahler Jr. farm. Mr Galbraith had traded all his possessions in B.C. for the farm.

In 1919, Mr. and Mrs. Smith came and stayed at the Galbraith's until he purchased the S.W. ¼ of 10-39-28 W. of 4th M. from Dr. Banting through the Soldier Settlement Board for a sum of \$4,800.00. There was 30 acres broken, a house under construction, so Bill completed the house and put a basement under it.

As Mrs. W. T. Smith could not adjust to conditions in Canada, she and son, Bobby, returned to England in 1934. Bobby attended school at Poplar Ridge.

Work was done with horses for quite a few years as well as clearing land. He raised pigs, chickens, milked cows.

In 1953, he sold his land to William Maga as he had been involved in a swather accident and lost most of his fingers.

He moved to Red Deer, bought a house on 47 St. and worked for Paramount Theatres for many years.

In 1980, he celebrated his 90th birthday at the

Golden Circle where open house was held. He is still quite hardy, goes dancing each week, plays cards, does some swimming.

He has quite a good sense of humor and has a few special comic songs he still likes to sing at gatherings. Still looks after himself and does not wear reading glasses.

While still on the farm he was active in community affairs, served on the hall board all the years he lived in Poplar Ridge.

Here are the words to two verses of Bills favorite song called **Shirts.**

Shirts

My Mrs. opened a laundry, of which I have a sad tale to tell.

She makes me do most of the washing and most of the mangling as well.

I am up to my eye brows in soap suds

We are doing a very good bizz

My wife does the cuffs and the collars

And my speciality is shirts, shirts, all kinds of shirts

Shirts that are little and tall

Shirts of all patterns, big ones and fat ones, and shirts that are not shirts at all.

Shirts patched with blouses and seats of old trousers.

Shirts of Columbine sheets and sacks that are rough-ted

Still washing snuffed it.

All sent to the laundry as shirts.



William T. Smith in the 30's. Bill's house is in the background.

The Soderman Family

Mr. Carl E. T. Soderman arrived in Poplar Ridge in 1911, and purchased the southeast quarter-section 32, township 38, range 28, owned by Mr. J. Peets, who then moved to north Red Deer with his wife and daughter. Mrs. Soderman and four daughters, Olga, Hilda, Dora, and Mabel arrived from England in

August of 1913 with their possessions. The train got to Red Deer at 2 a.m., and, with Mr. Soderman, they walked from the station across the bridge to the home of the Peets, where they were made welcome.

By the fall, the children were established in school, Olga in town in Grade XI, and the others in Poplar Ridge. Some things were very strange to them after England: for example, the log cabin for a house, and the animals; and at school, all the grades were in one room, boys and girls were mixed, children took their lunches in lard pails which we had never seen, and the games were different. But riding to school on horseback was novel and thrilling. The family had brought out their piano, and as all the girls had learned to play some instrument, it was not long before they were all playing together at concerts and parties — piano, two violins and mandolin.

After some years, Mr. Soderman was able to buy the adjoining N.E. quarter, which bordered the main road to Sylvan Lake. This made them feel less isolated. At this time they bought a small house in Red Deer, and had it hauled out to this farm. And in 1930, Mr. Soderman started to build a new big house incorporating the small house into it. By this time, the children had mostly grown up. Olga and Hilda had become teachers, and Dora and Mabel were finishing high school in town. Mrs. Soderman, who had taught music in town (where she had also been a governess) thought she would like to teach music again. She had a few pupils in the shack — children who came on horse back or by buggy, but she now thought of Sylvan Lake. She made a visit there and lined up some pupils. From then on, she went weekly to the Lake, walking the six miles each way very often (if she did this she had to stay overnight), but also getting rides, by private people or trucks like Dench. She did this summer and winter for several years, getting well known. Some of her pupils were the McKaskills, the McCrimmons, Helen Dingwall, the Tooleys and the Learneds.

In 1920, Olga married John A. Spencer and went to live in Magrath, where she still is, having raised a family of six. Hilda continued teaching, the first few years in country schools, including one year at Poplar Ridge, and the last 29 in the Red Deer High School, eventually the L.T.C.H.S. She retired in 1967 to Vancouver, where she lives in Kitsilano.

Dora and Mabel went in for music and became outstanding teachers of piano and violin, also church organists. They too moved to Vancouver where they are still in the world of music.

A prominent “institution” in Poplar Ridge was the Hall which was opposite the Soderman farm and was built by the farmers. Many were the dances and socials held there, and the Sodermans were often

drawn into lending gasoline lamps, hot water for cars, and the wash-boiler to make the coffee on the kitchen stove. On one occasion, an accident occurred when the handle of the boiler broke off and the boiling coffee spilled on Mr. Soderman's legs. He was laid up for weeks.

As was the custom in those days, the neighbors helped with the farm work and chores. Another affair in the hall was the Christmas Carnival, in 1934 or 35, when Hilda, helped by Mr. W. Christian, organized a great Carnival, consisting of chicken supper, bingo, all sorts of side shows and booths, and a dance, with an all girl band. The aim was to clear \$100, which was a great sum in this time of Depression. They reached their goal. Everyone in the district was drawn into it, to produce the affair, and people came from far and near and had a marvellous time. The hall was later pulled down, and a modern home built on the site.

The Sodermans sold the farm in 1945, and moved to near Ladysmith on Vancouver Island on a small acreage. Mr. Soderman died there in 1950, and Mrs. Soderman moved to Vancouver to be with her daughters. She died in 1971 at the age of 98.

Miss Soderman, the author of this, was killed in a car accident in British Columbia in September of 1980.

John and Margaret Soley

John was born in Truro, Nova Scotia, in 1894, the son of Jervis and Mary Soley. They also had a daughter and a son — Margaret and William (Bill). John's mother passed away in 1898. His father then married Julia Biswanger. They came west in 1902 by train to Red Deer, looking for a homestead and to raise the family. His grandfather, William Lawson, came west with the family. They lived in the Shady Nook district for a few years and John attended school at the Industrial School. His sister, Margaret Stillings, stayed in Truro and still lived there. After moving west, Jervis and Julia had two daughters: Edith, and Hazel (now deceased), and a son, Leonard.

His father took up a homestead on N.E. ¼ section 20-38-28-west of the 4th in the Poplar Ridge district. They farmed with a team of oxen and horses. The only way to go to town was by walking or horseback. They ground and sifted barley to make bread with. The meat in those days were wild chicken or game and rabbits they could shoot or snare.

John started working on the railroad at the age of 13 years as a fireman. His father passed away in 1910. John then had to quit the railroad and start farming the homestead as Bill was not old enough to work. John's stepmother then married Byron Raymer and



Back row, L. to R.: Jack, Byron, Mary, Eva. Middle row: Donna, Donald, Pat. Front row: Margaret and John Soley.



Back row, L. to R.: Henry Langley, Noel Langley, Jack Soley, George, Art, Wilfred Langley, John. Second row: Trevor, Dick Boyden, Esther Soley holding Norma, Clayton Bates, Helen Langley, Bert Payne, Mary Aubuchon, Eva Sils, Donald Soley, Eva Bates, Byron Soley, Bland Aubuchon. Third row: Collett Boyden, Pat Payne, Lee, Hedley Langley, Margaret Soley, Peggy Langley, June Boyden, Donna Soley. Fourth row: Sharon Soley, John Aubuchon, Doug Soley, Margaret Aubuchon, 1961.

moved to the Shady Nook district. John and his grandfather farmed both quarters until Bill was old enough to farm his grandfather's quarter.

In 1927, John married Margaret Langley who came from Yorktown, Texas, in 1919 with her family. That same year the original two storey plastered house burnt to the ground. A small house was then purchased from Cygnet elevator and moved onto the property. Grandfather Soley passed away October 28, 1928.

The neighbours were Bill Soley, Mr. and Mrs. William Woof, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Gilbert, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Pearson, Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Prentice, Mr. and Mrs. Lute Austin, the Archibald Family, Bertha Doig, the Joe Gaetz family and Mr. and Mrs. Wiley.

John and Margaret raised four daughters and three sons: Mary, Eva, Patricia, and Donna, Byron, John Jr. and Donald.

Mary married Francis (Bland) Aubuchon on Aug. 21, 1951. They had a daughter, Margaret, and a son, John. Margaret married John Perrin and they have two daughters: Sherry and Aura Lee. They live in Red Deer. John married Judy Hutlet and has two sons: Don and Darcy — and a daughter, Deanna. They also reside in Red Deer. Francis passed away in June, 1975. Mary resides in Red Deer.

Byron married Esther Wagner on Oct. 24, 1953. They have a son, Douglas, and two daughters, Sharon and Norma. Sharon married Edward Ortwein and has two daughters, Kelly and Kimberley. They reside in Blackfalds. Doug and Norma are both single and live at home. Byron and Esther live in the Poplar Ridge District now.

Eva married Clayton Bates on April 30, 1959. They have a son, Alfred, and a daughter, Cheryl, both at home. They reside in Vernon, B.C.

John Jr. married Swancie Kits on July 31, 1961. They have four sons: Robert, David, Kenneth, and Daniel. All the boys are at home. They reside at R.R. 2, Red Deer.

Donna married Thomas Brady on Aug. 11, 1962. They have two daughters: Linda and Bonnie which are both at home. They reside in Calgary.

Donald married Elaine Tisdale on Mar. 21, 1964. They have two daughters, Gail and Cindy, and three sons, Kevin, Troy, and Shane. They are all at home. Don and Elaine live at Sylvan Lake.

Mary and Byron took all their schooling at Poplar Ridge. Mary also attended Olds Agriculture College for one year. Eva, Patricia, John Jr. started school at Poplar Ridge and finished their education in Red Deer. Donna and Donald took all their schooling in Red Deer. The teachers at Poplar Ridge were: Helen Neilson, Mable Nash, Nadine Halischuck, Audrey Schaefer, Eileen White, Agnes Anderson, and Gordon Matthias. We had two and a half miles to walk to school. One winter the snow was so deep that Mary and Byron waded through snow past their waists.

That morning we left for school at 7:30 and got to school at 9:10. We had an annual Christmas concert and would practice at the school and then go to the Poplar Ridge Hall and practice as it neared time for the concert. It was a big event to all the students, as each had a part in some of the program. Other events held each year were a Halloween party, Valentine party, box socials, card parties, an annual sports day with competition between the surrounding schools. Also a picnic at the school with games, lots of hot dogs, salads, cake or cookies and candies and usually ice cream cones. Everyone in the district was invited to attend. In later years the picnic was held at Sylvan Lake.

Numerous hail storms pounded us four years in a row. We picked up hail stones and made homemade ice cream. It broke all the windows out of the house. We always had a big garden and picked a lot of wild fruit which was canned as there was no electricity or deep freezes in those days. Coal oil lights or gas lights were used in all homes at that time. A trip to town was done by a team of horses hitched to wagon or sleigh until we got a 1927 model car in 1933 and then a good part of the time travel was impossible with the car and had to rely on the team due to the poor roads.

During the war years when we were coming home from school, the army was on maneuvers at the Old Werner Place and we would run home as fast as we could in case they shot at us, as we thought.

An Honour Roll of those who participated in World War 2 is still at the community centre.

Most farm work in those days was done by horses. There were some tractors in the country. There were very few cars in those days too. Threshing times was a big event in the fall each year, it was done with a tractor and a threshing machine and horses with bundle wagons. Other teams with a grain box would haul the grain to the bin and it was then shovelled off by scoop shovel, which we children loved to watch.

During the depression many hoboos or transients were going through the country. Many of these fellows were fed by us. The Indians used to come through the country and trade vegetables for moccasins. Mary, Byron, and Eva all wore moccasins to school that were traded for these vegetables.

Several churches from Red Deer took turns at holding Church and Sunday School at the school every Sunday. We attended each week and most of the time we walked.

Margaret belonged to the W. I., U.F.A., and was secretary for the Social Credit group.

Most winter activities were sleigh riding, tobogganing, and trying to ski on an old barrel stave.

Going visiting the neighbours with the horses ad sleigh was always a joy to the family as we had bells on the harness of the horses and on a clear, frosty night was a real treat. We had straw in the sleigh and lots of covers, with a foot-warmer filled with hot bricks to help keep us warm. We would sing all the way there and home again. A lot of card parties were held at the homes in the community.

Hunting, fishing, handicrafts, camping, gardening and flowers are hobbies of most of the members of all our family more so now than they were then.

During one terrible storm we had in 1942, the Cygnet Elevator was struck by lightning and burnt to the ground.

Due to ill health with his stomach, John went to work at the Penhold Air Base as a steam engineer during the war years, 1938-43. After that John went retubing boilers with Roy Ross of Innisfail. He then went to work at the Provincial Training School as it was known then and is now called Michener Centre, as an engineer in 1946 and worked there until he retired in 1959 and worked as summer relief for several years. The family moved to Red Deer in 1948 so the family could all be together as Mary and Byron were also working in town.

Audrey Braithwaite (nee Schaefer) also taught Mary and Byron's children as a sub-teacher in Red Deer when they were old enough for school.

After his retirement John's hobbies were fishing, hunting, photography, gardening, camping, and did a lot of woodwork. He made a lot of chairs for his grandchildren.

John passed away on December 29, 1970. Margaret still resides in Red Deer. We had resided at the same place for 31 years then had to move to another location, due to our land being made into a new subdivision. Margaret still likes hobbies of all kinds and her flowers, house plants and her family. We now have three sets of four generations in the family.

William (Bill) Soley Family

Bill came west with his family in 1902 from Truro, Nova Scotia. He attended school at Shady Nook. He then moved to the Poplar Ridge district with his parents.

He farmed on N. W. ¼ of sec 20-38-28-west of the 4th. Bill and John worked together on the two quarters and Bill stayed with John as his quarter had no buildings on it.

He was married to Thelma Prentice in 1934 and moved a small house onto his quarter in which to live. They had three sons: LeRoy, Lorne, and Keith.

Bill enjoyed gardening and all activities. Thelma left Bill and took the boys with her, so Bill moved to Calgary. He worked for the C.N. Railroad as coach

cleaner for many years. He remarried and continued to live in Calgary until his passing on June 7, 1966.

We have no idea where any of his family are now.

(Submitted by Margaret Soley)

The James Sparks

The James Sparks family arrived in the district the summer of 1950 from Rocky Mountain House, living for a month in North Red Deer before moving to the Losse place a mile north of the Crossroads school. Jim came originally from Port Elgin, Ontario, while Clara was born in Barons, Alberta. They had three children: Cathryn, Teresa, and David. David started Grade 1 in Crossroads where Mrs. Gano taught, as well, Teresa in Grade III and Cathryn in Grade VI. Jim was driving truck for Jack Betten-son.

That was the winter we had four feet of snow on the 28th of March which closed all roads and Jim had to walk through the drifts the mile east to the highway to catch a ride to work for quite a while. We had 100 chicks delivered to the corner by the Crossroads school near the first of April, where we met them on foot and carried them home.

On Labor Day, 1951, we moved to the McEachern (Newton) place across the No. 11 Highway from the Midway Service Station and store. Here the children attended Poplar Ridge school with Sam Davidson as teacher. When River Glen school was opened in the old Army Barracks as a Junior High School for the County, Cathy was one of the first groups to be bussed to town. She received the Governor General Award and Medal for Achievement in the Grade IX Departmental Examinations at the end of the 1953-54 term, going on to Composite with its controversial (even then) trimester system.

When George Francisco from Bethany Baptist Church held Sunday Services and Vacation Bible School at the school, he gained a staunch member in Teresa, who attended faithfully, joined the church and was baptized in the old Bethany Baptist Church on the corner of 49 Ave. and 52 St. She and Syd were married there later.

David attended Poplar Ridge for all Grades II through VI when he also went to River Glen, Composite, and on to the U. of A. to take Engineering. Included in the first year was a three week course in surveying and this was to turn into the basis for his career later.

In 1955, we moved to the Alf Jones place — the old De Pauw farm. While we lived here Jim changed to a job at Whyte Motors. There was no power on the place where we lived and it was a regular chore, when it was plug-in weather, for one of us to grab a robe and

slippers and go out to the shed at 2 A.M. to start the car and warm it up, so it would be sure to start in the morning. Cathy graduated from Composite High School in 1957 and went on to attend University of Alberta for two terms, then accepted a teaching post in Innisfail. Jim took on the job of driving mail truck for Wink Prendergast on Rural Routes two and four. Clara started work at the Provincial Training school, now Michener Centre, and moved to the Chizmazia place across the highway from Walter Hart, owned by H. Stamm.

In 1959, we bought one of the first acreages in Valleyview Subdivision, formerly the farm of Mrs. Lorentson. We drilled a well, put in a hand pump, and hauled water from our well to the Chizmazia place. In the spring we bought a small mobile home and a couple of sheds and pulled them all in by our well. When we got the power hooked up we could dispense with the coal oil lamps and gas lamps we had been using and Cathy was glad to be rid of the chore of filling the lamps, trimming the wicks and polishing the glass chimneys. After living at different places all over Crossroads and Poplar Ridge, we finally owned our own land.

We excavated and began to build a block basement. Teresa graduated from high school in June and worked as playground supervisor during the summer then she took off for University at Edmonton. Cathey and Vladimir Brecka were married in July, both teaching in Innisfail.

Jim had a severe heart attack December 28, 1960, which ended his career as mail driver. With care and rest he improved. After considering all angles, we decided that we would continue building on the house, Jim and David doing the work with the understanding that Jim would promise to stop work and rest when he was tired. The therapy seemed to work



Back row, L. to R.: Clara, David, Jim. Front row: Teresa and Cathy Sparks, 1954.

so the house slowly and surely took shape. The first winter was spent in the basement with straw bales on the floor above as roof. Next spring the walls and roof went up and we had a house.

Jim had built a basement for Ron Scott next door and here he met the carpenters, Gil Bower and Arnold Schepp. Gil asked Jim to help on the job and this began a relationship which continued until he retired in 1976 as these three fellows built many houses in Central Alberta, town and country. After retiring, Jim continued working at carpentry and siding application.

Teresa taught school for two terms in Bowden and married Syd Taekema in July, 1964, in Red Deer. Following their marriage they left for Oregon where they attended Cascade Theological College, Portland, for two years, then came home to Vancouver preparatory to going to Colombia, South America as missionaries under the Gospel Mission Union. Eddy and Philip were born in Vancouver. They left for Colombia in 1972, returning after four years with an addition — Patricia had joined the family. During their two years stay at home, they moved a prefab house from Vancouver onto a lot in Alix. In July, '78, they left for Maracaibo, Venezuela. The boys are both in a boarding school in Rubio, a 250 mile drive from the parents and Patty in Maracaibo.

David and Violet Metcalfe of Bingley were married in Ghost Pine, Alberta in February, 1969. David has a position as Survey Technologist with the Department of Environment in Edmonton. With their three children: Timothy, Cherina, and Jonathon, they live in Bon Accord.

Cathy and Vlad live in Wetaskiwin, Alberta. Roger, Brian and Diana are their children.

In 1966, the house in Valleyview was sold and we moved into Grandview. Though Jim is retired he still does the odd job but gets in quite a bit of golf. Clara retired from the sewing room at P.T.S. in September, 1976, and has taken up pottery. She has also been a regular attendant at the Farmer's Market for three years with pots, plants, herbs, and home baking.

by Clara S. Sparks

Harley E. Stamm

Harley E. Stamm, B.Ed. (U. of Sask.), B.A. (U. of Alta.) was born on a dryland farm at Vantage, near Assiniboia, Saskatchewan. Ilene H. Zorn was born on a dryland farm at Milk River, Alberta. We were married in the United Church at Milk River, Alberta, March, 1951, and moved to Red Deer in 1955. We bought the Chizmazia place from George Salomons in 1956 as a hobby farm (N.E. 34-38-28-4) and the Staples place from Sam Salomons in 1962 (S.E. 3-39-38-4).

We took up residence on our land in 1964. In 1966, we acquired more land and became full-time farmers. We have four children:

Earl Wesley Stamm, B.Sc. (U. of Lethbridge), born at Taber, December, 1951, is now northern Alberta area manager for Ducks Unlimited, Grande Prairie.

Dale Charles Stamm, B.A. (U. of A.) M.A. (U. of Calgary), born at Vulcan, April, 1954, is now a professional planner for City of Calgary.

Lloyd Arthur Stamm, born at Red Deer, July, 1959, graduated from Lindsay Thurber and S.A.I.T., is now fourth year apprentice mechanic.

Elaine Mary Stamm, born at Red Deer, May, 1966, student at River Glen.

The Staples Family

The Staples family came from Beaver Country, Oklahoma, in 1908. They travelled by train.

Their neighbours were Nellie and Clancey Bowen, Ed Martin, Bill Atkins.

The children, three daughters: Ethel, Leah, and Esther attended school at Poplar Ridge.

The family lived on the Stamm farm for a few years before moving to NW¼ 33-38-28-W4, which they leased for a while until they had enough money to purchase it.

There was a beef ring in the district at the time and everyone had fresh meat.

Ethel married Ed Whaley in June 1925. Mr. Whaley was a carpenter. He built the big Hunt house. He also built sets of buildings for the Soldier Settlement. A small house, barn, and chicken house. One such set was across the river at Blackfalds and another set was five miles east of Lacombe.



Front row, L. to R.: Ed Marten, two children and wife, Leah Staples, Ethel Brownrigg. Back row: Mrs. Brownrigg, Esther Staples, Mrs. Staples, Mrs. Hume. At the end are Mr. Brownrigg, Mr. Staples, Mr. Hume.

In 1926, the Whaley family moved to Condor to a half section of land Ed owned there. They had six children, three girls and three boys. Two of the girls have since died. Mr. Whaley died in 1956. Ethel now lives in Penticton, B.C.

Leah married Lee Farris in 1926. She attended the Calgary Stampede where she rode bucking horses and did Roman Riding. She had taken a course in breaking and training horses and even shod her own horses. It was at a stampede that she met Lee who was a cowboy. He has now passed away and Leah is living in California.

Esther married George Clark in 1928 or '29. He passed away several years later. Esther now lives in California.

Mr. and Mrs. Staples moved to Canyon, B.C., in 1925 after selling the farm to Mr. and Mrs. M. Wiley. Mr. Staples passed away there and Mrs. Staples went to California to live with her daughters until she passed away.

Al and Alice Stephenson

Al and Alice Stephenson purchased part of the N.E. ¼ of 21-38-28 West of the 4th from Ian Dudgeon.

Al's family farmed at Glendon, Alberta, where Al attended school. The family later moved to Edmonton. Al married the former Alice Johnson on June 7, 1955. Alice's Dad worked for the C.P.R. at Botha and later became the Postmaster there and it was here that Alice attended school and graduated in 1953.

Al and Alice always dreamed of a small farm in the country and this was their dream home. The bungalow built by the Dudgeon family was four years old. There were 21 acres of pasture and cultivated land, a small barn and nice new corrals.

In July, 1973, Al and Alice and their three children left the city life and began a new life in the country. Al is a Mobile Supervisor with the C.P.R.

The Stephenson family are very sports minded. Al, Brian, Cheryl, and Barry are all fastball pitchers. Al currently plays for the Cool Well Old Timers; Brian for the Diplomats of the Western Major Fastball League; Cheryl for Red Deer Peacock Inn Spirits and Barry for Cameo Raiders. Needless to say, Mother enjoys going to ball games.

Music has been a very important part of Alice's life. She has written some music. Two of the songs have been recorded. Al, Alice and Cheryl have played for dances at the Old Poplar Ridge School and in the new hall.

Al was president of the Poplar Ridge Community Association when the hall was built and Al and Alice



Brian, Al, Alice, Barry, Cheryl Stephenson.

have served on the Entertainment Committee since moving to the area.

Al and Alice celebrated their 25th Wedding Anniversary at the Poplar Ridge Hall on June 7, 1980, with family and friends in attendance. The family, along with Alice's father provided the entertainment.

The Stephensons are the proud parents of Brian, 24. He is married to Christine Yakimchuck and they have one son, Joseph. Brian built a house on his parents place in 1979 and they live there at present. He is a plumber by trade. Cheryl, 22, University Graduate of Edmonton (Physical Education Degree). Barry, 13, a student in Grade 8 at River Glen School.

John and Jackie Steveson

John and Jackie Steveson moved to Red Deer from Regina, Saskatchewan, in 1978. Two children, Connie (12) and Gordon (10).

John was originally from Eden Mills, Ontario, from a family of ten children. Jackie was originally from Saskatchewan. Her maiden name was Mitchell, lived in many different areas of Saskatchewan but spent 10 years in the North Battleford area.

Stewart, William F. and Dorothea

William Francis Stewart was born the youngest son of James T. Stewart and Mary Duncan Stewart of Agincourt, Ontario, on September 2, 1900.

Dad's younger life was filled with good times and bad, but he generally related the good, often telling of watermelon snitching and horse races.

Hard work was the thing of that era and Dad did his share. He often told stories of his oldest brother,

Sommerville, who remained on the home farm at Agincourt. Dad had three sisters, who also remained in the Toronto area, and another brother, Herb, who came west. Herb settled in the Shady Nook district where he farmed for many years.

Dad came to the Innisfail area and worked on a farm there for awhile. He purchased the Henry Hart farm, the N.W. 36-38-28-W4, in 1923. During that year Aunt Mary, Dad's youngest sister, came to visit and stayed for awhile. Having come from the east where wild Indian tales were told, she was the topic of a story that Dad often told. As we remember it, an Indian came to the house wanting a meal. Dad showed him a pile of wood that needed splitting behind the drive shed, telling him he would call him when his dinner was ready. Aunt Mary, being a few years younger than dad, was curious and decided to see if the fellow was really chopping wood. She ran to the shed to peer through a knot-hole only to find two very large brown eyes peering back at her. Needless to say it didn't take long for that young Ontario girl to cover the distance from the shed to the safety of the kitchen door.



W. F. Stewart first home in Poplar Ridge.



Back: Bob, Bill, Jim. Front: Dora, Mary, Bill, 1949.

On March 31, 1925, Dad took Dorothea Wright, a young neighbor girl as his bride. Mother was born in Hartney, Manitoba on June the 29, 1900. She came west with her parents, James and Adah Wright, and brother, Ted, in 1902, and they settled in the Crossroads district. On March the 30th, Dad received a phone call. The fellow on the other end of the line told Dad, he was Herb, and wanted him to come to town and pick him up. Dad asked "Herb who?" When "Your brother, Herb", was the reply. Dad's return was "You're no brother of mine.", thinking his brother was in Ontario. Uncle Herb convinced Dad, that he had heard of the wedding plans and had decided to come west to be at the wedding. So on their wedding day Mother and Dad had one member of the Stewart family in attendance.

In June of 1926, James Herbert was born, and Robert Gordon arrived in October of 1927. Almost two years later in September, Dorothea Mary arrived with the help of a good friend and a close neighbor, Mrs. Federer as mid-wife. Three years later another son, William Lewis was born in September of 1932.

Jim, Bob and Mary all attended Crossroads school.

We lived on the Hart place during the dirty Thirties. We were too young to realize the problems that our folks and others were going through. We do remember strangers coming and having meals and moving on. One summer day, Mother had baked bread and canned raspberries. In the evening we all went to the hay field to help Dad coil up hay. When we returned to the kitchen we found a loaf of bread and a quart of raspberries missing. Later, we found an empty jar in the grove of trees that surrounded the yard. Some traveller was fed that evening even though we were not there.

Those were good years though with good friends like the Federers, Duvals, McLeods, Edgars, Milnes, Blakleys, Hazletts and Belichs all around us. Dad served on the school board for a number of years while we were in the Crossroads district.

In 1938, we loaded up our things and moved to live with Uncle Herb in Shady Nook. With three and a half miles to school, Dad drove us to school most mornings. At night we walked home as Uncle Herb and Dad were busy in the fields. We enjoyed living there that summer as the Burnt Lake Creek ran close by. That summer holidays, we spent a lot of time in the creek and fishing with Uncle Herb in the Red Deer River.

In 1939, Dad rented the Plumber place, where we lived for the next three years. This was something different for us as the school was only half a mile from the house.

In 1942, Dad purchased the N½ 20-38-28-W4,

from Byron Raymer (known as the Soley place), and we started school at Poplar Ridge.

In 1948, the folks built a new house, with Dad doing his own building. After that he worked on many houses in and around Red Deer with Bird Blakley and Dunc McBlane.

We remember Mother deciding one day, to learn to drive the car. She wanted to go to Mrs. Blakley's, who lived just two miles away. She climbed into the Model A Ford, started it and began to back up to turn around. Suddenly she backed into something, looking around she found she had backed squarely into the outhouse almost tipping it over. That was it, although she had ridden and driven horses for years, she never did master the automobile.

In 1950, Mother and Dad celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary in their new home with many of their good friends and neighbors present.

In 1952, Mary married Richard Krogman and moved back to the Crossroads district. In 1954, Bill married Anne Smith of Moose Jaw. Bill was stationed there at the time with the R.C.A.F. Bob married Ruth Johanson in 1963, and Jim remained at home with Mother and Dad.

Mother and Dad were proud of their beautiful gardens and fruit trees. Mother was active in the Poplar Ridge W.I. and the Garden Club. Both of them were interested in the community and were often seen helping out at the old community centre.

Mother became ill and Dad cared for her until she was hospitalized in 1971. Dad passed away suddenly on April 25, 1972.

Stewart, James Herbert **N.W. 20-38-28 W. of the 4th**

Jim Stewart was born in his family home, June 30, 1926, to William and Dorothea Stewart who resided on a farm now owned by Mrs. Alec Milne. He started school at Crossroads in 1932 and moved with his family to his Uncle's farm in the Shady Nook District in 1938. In the fall, his family moved to the August Gehrke farm and lived in a small house until the spring of 1940. From there his family moved to a farm owned by Mrs. Plummer, west of the Shady Nook School.

Jim traded a fence crawling sow to Sid Hewson for his first guitar.

During this time he got his first taste of a threshing crew, field pitching for the Sam Wilson outfit. In 1940 he joined the Air Cadets of Canada and spent a memorable ten days at the Fort Macleod base in southern Alberta. During that stay temperatures soared to over 100 degrees and a record hail storm occurred. The spring of 1942 saw another move to a farm in the Poplar Ridge district. His father pur-



Jim Stewart, our One Man Band, 1960.

chased the place on which the Soley's lived from Mrs. Byron Raymer.

Jim walked or rode horseback a distance of four and one half miles to finish the school term at Shady Nook. The next year was easier with only two and one half miles to walk to attend at Poplar Ridge. About 1946, after the boys returned from World War II, he helped form the "Shady Nook Sodbusters", who played for the St. Patricks celebrations at Shady Nook and many other functions in Red Deer and surrounding area. Others of the original group were Orville Gehrke, Don Morrison, Reuben Bollinger and Bob Gault.

Jim cut logs for lumber that was to build a number of buildings on the home place and did carpenter work on a number of houses in this area as well as in Red Deer. Some of these were for John Warren, Bird Blakely, Bill Hazlett, and Midway Service Station. He also had a stint of working part-time at the Government Liquor store in Red Deer.

Jim purchased the quarter, N.W. 20-38-28 W. of the 4th, from his father but still lives on the home place. He continues to farm and enjoys playing for dances. He has played with "Country Melodies" and is currently with "Jake and the Kids" as well as other musical groups. He takes an active part in the local community clubs.

Stewart, Bob and Ruth (Johansen) **S.E. 30-38-28 W4th**

I was born in the Crossroads district in 1927 at which time my parents, Bill and Dora Stewart,



Bob and Ruth Stewart, Walter and David Johansen, 1978.

farmed a quarter section on the Sylvan Lake Trail. Dad had purchased this farm from Mr. Jean DePalme in 1924 and our family lived there until 1938. Of my childhood memories in the Crossroads district, these few stand out: While attending school Miss Smith, my first teacher, promptly cured me of being a south-paw. Our neighbours to the west, the Macleod family, provided us with many evenings of entertainment as they could be heard playing their bagpipes. I remember vividly a day when Mrs. Joe Duval, Sr., came to visit Mother. I was swinging a potato on a stick and it went flying through our living room window. Mrs. Duval's automatic reaction came in French but I needed no translation as I ran from the house and did not return for some time. I also remember going out to the road at the sound of an approaching vehicle, as cars were seen few and far between.

Our family moved to the Shady Nook district where I enjoyed skating and playing hockey. It was my first opportunity to skate on a boarded rink. Magpie hunting was a popular pastime for boys during these years. Does anyone else recall the day that Mrs. Whitehead's tame goose was shot on Jone's slough? My favourite places to visit were the swimming hole on the George Butler place and the fishing

hole on my Uncle Herb's. Although I enjoyed going to school at Shady Nook, I never learned to be a good speller. After three years I had mastered the art of writing my spelling mistakes on the blackboard with four pieces of chalk between my fingers and thumb.

My family moved to Poplar Ridge district in 1942 where I finished my schooling and began farming with my father and brother, Jim. All of us walked to school at Poplar Ridge. During the summer we went across country through the Joe Roth place and continued on with Phil, Frank, and Marie. In the winter Dad would often meet us with the horses and sleigh. Magpie and crow eggs, as well as legs (in pairs) were worth two cents each so many of us hunted them and were paid through our school teacher. Christmas concerts at the hall were second to none and always drew a large crowd. We would often share our sleigh with the Pearson family to attend such functions.

During the war years Jim and I stayed at home to help with the fall harvest, so seldom began our school year until late October. My parents took turns with the neighbours to go to town for groceries and farm supplies as gasoline was rationed. Jim and I often rode with the Jone's, Morrison's or Blakley's to attend Air Cadets in Red Deer or at Penhold base. Threshing was a new experience for me during the early 40's. Dick Woof travelled from farm to farm with his machine and I enjoyed spike pitching in the fields, returning home at night exhausted.

I quit school in 1944 and began farming. Dad, Jim, and I cleared land and sold firewood in town. Our huge pile of split wood bought us our first new truck; a 1946 Ford one ton. We also lumbered the Pearson farm. Dick, our old skid horse, would go from the bush to the log site by himself except at quitting time when he would head for home, log and all.

Mr. Lloyd Prentice rented his farm to me for about 14 years before selling it to me in 1962. Mrs. Prentice was an excellent cook and often invited me in for pancakes or chicken and dumplings, both of which were delicious. Mr. Prentice enjoyed his horses and grew tremendous timothy by row cropping. I began building a home after the Prentice's moved to Breton and married Ruth Johansen in July of 1963.

Ruth was born in Red Deer in 1944 at which time her family lived in the Crossroads district. She moved to Poplar Ridge in 1951 where her folks operated Midway Service Station. She attended school at Poplar Ridge, River Glen and St. Joseph's convent. Ruth worked for Richard Hartley, driving a lunch wagon, before we were married. In 1965, her two youngest brothers, David and Walter, came to live with us and we became an instant family. Our home

was not yet finished so we felt like pioneers, making those trips out to the little house in the spruce and heating water on the stove for baths and dishes. We cleared about 20 acres after purchasing the farm, built cattle and pig barns and used the old house to raise chickens and turkeys. Our summers were always very busy as my nephew's (Bill and Anne's sons) spent their holidays here with our boys. Ruth somehow keeps us all fed and enjoys growing a large garden. David and Walter both attended school at River Glen, Montfort, and the Comp. They now reside in Edmonton where they both work for 7-11 stores.

We have both enjoyed our years in the Poplar Ridge district and take pleasure in helping out at the Community Centre. In this, Alberta's 75th Anniversary, we pay tribute to our pioneers who settled in this area leaving us a rich heritage . . .

Stewart, Bill and Anne (Smith)

N.E. 21-38-28-W4th

Bill Stewart was born September 25, 1932, at his family home in the Crossroads district. He is the youngest member of the Bill and Dorothea Stewart family. He lived there with his family until they moved to the Shady Nook district in 1938, and later to the Poplar Ridge district. He received his early education at Shady Nook and Poplar Ridge and later stayed at the Comp dormitories to complete high school. Bill joined the Air Force and was stationed at Gimli, Manitoba, Aylmer, Ontario, and Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, as an aero mechanic. He married Anne Smith in Moose Jaw.

Anne came to Canada with her mother and brothers in 1947 from Edinburgh, Scotland, where she was born. They moved to Red Deer where Bill worked at Burrow Motors before beginning his career with the Alberta Liquor Control Board.

Their first two sons, Mike and Gregg, were born while they lived in Red Deer and Chris after they moved to Poplar Ridge.

They moved onto the Wm. Woof farm in 1959. Mike and Gregg took the bus to Red Deer to attend school at Montfort. Bill was transferred to St. Albert in 1965 as assistant manager of a liquor store and later managed stores in Edmonton and was promoted to Area Supervisor. Mike is now married and attending medical school. Gregg is a letter carrier and Chris had recently completed high school and is an avid hockey player.

Stork

July 1st, 1959, Helmut and Margreta Stork immigrated to Canada from Mulheim Ruhr, West Ger-

many. They lived in Red Deer for one year and then bought an acreage in Valleyview Subdivision. There Helmut built their first house.

In 1961, they had a daughter, Janet, and in 1963 they had another daughter, Irene.

In 1974, after building four houses in Valleyview, they moved out in the country and bought the McGovern Estate and built a house there. Two years later they sold the farm and went to Germany for three months. After three months of touring Germany, they came back to Red Deer and bought the Robinson acreage by the T.V. Tower. In 1978, they built a new house on the southeast corner of their land where they are now living.

Fred and Lily Straub

Fred and Lily Straub bought the S.W. ¼ of 33-38-28 W. of 4th in the fall of 1948 from Jim Brackney. They came from Saskatchewan. Lily was the former Lily Gebhardt of the Castor area. After looking for land for some time they decided they liked the farm at Poplar Ridge. The house consisted of three buildings joined together. Fred farmed with a tractor. They raised cattle and pigs and milked a few cows.

Fred never seemed to mind the cold; even on the coldest days of winter he'd be working around the barns with no mitts on. Their closest neighbours were Henry Schwartz, John Warren and Harold Brackney.

Eddie and Gordon attended school at Poplar Ridge with Mr. Sam Davidson as their teacher. The boys were playing at recess and this day decided to jump from one barn roof to the other roof. Eddies jump was short and he fell down between the two barns catching the side of his face on a nail as he went



Lily and Fred Straub, Eddie, Gordon, Sylvia.

down. To this day he has the scar to remind him of his school days at Poplar Ridge.

Fred and Lily helped organize the Sunday School in the district. Fred was on the school board and hall board after the school was closed. Lily was active in the Women's Institute.

The road past Straubs out to the No. 11 Highway was built and gravelled while they lived there. This was a great improvement as before that they only had a trail in to the farm. Winter roads were especially bad and the winter of 1950 and '51 was one they never forgot. All the roads were blocked for days and after the fierce blizzard in March, 1951, neighbours were out helping the snow plow break through the hard drifts and many trails were made through farm fields in order to reach the main highways.

The Straubs bought a butcher shop and cold storage plant in Okotoks and from there moved to Medicine Hat where they still reside.

Their family of four children consists of: Eddie, born in 1949, married in 1967, and has four children; Gordon, born 1951, married in 1970, and has two children; Sylvia, born in 1954, married in 1973 to Garry Didlow and they have two children; Stanley born in 1960 just before they left Poplar Ridge. He is still single.

All the family are living in Medicine Hat and working around there.

Otto Tettolowski

I was born in East Germany on April 10, 1907 completed education and agriculture school, then cheese making. We processed all our own and some of the neighbors' dairy products. All farm products including many ducks and fruit were taken to our market stall at Farmers' Market.

After Mother died of cancer, and a change in political views, I decided I would like to go to Canada for a few years. I arrived in Halifax, N.S., April 15, 1929, after a fifteen day voyage.



Otto Tettolowski, Mrs. Baker (daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Witcher), Mr. and Mrs. Witcher, 1940.



Otto and Ruth Tettolowski, 1948.

I landed up in Hodgeville, Sask., and worked on the ranch until fall. Then on to Edmonton. It was a C.P.R. agent that sent me to Red Deer to work for Mr. Witcher as he wanted a German boy that was from a farm.

I landed at Prevo elevator, Dec. 15, 1929. Met by Mr. Witcher in sleigh and team and snow up to my neck. I wondered what I had gotten into. I had given the "Club Cafe" my last thirty five cents for lunch.

Mr. and Mrs. George Witcher came from Everett, Washington, to Red Deer in the early twenties and bought a section of land in Poplar Ridge district, the home quarter being N.W. ¼ 9-39-28 West fourth meridian, homesteaded by Mr. Eggen, Sr. Mr. Witcher was born in U.S.A., well educated, and a customs officer for U.S.A. until buying land at Poplar Ridge. Mrs. Witcher was born in La Chiene, Quebec, near St. Ann de Beaupue. She named the farm the same.

Mrs. Witcher was married to a Mr. King and had three children, two girls and one boy before she and Mr. Witcher were married. They were grown up and married long before they came to Red Deer area. They had a few fine horses and fine milk cows when I arrived. We soon increased the milk cows to twenty. We sold milk for 17 quarts for one dollar.

As foreclosure was just around the corner, we decided to buy an old truck and deliver milk, cream, butter and as much garden vegetables as possible to

tourists in Sylvan Lake. We also had some customers in Red Deer. Only through all this work we were able to save the farm. We continued for eight years. I worked for Whitchers for thirteen years and decided it was time I started for myself.

I rented the farm for 1944 and bought it in 1945. It was then Mr. and Mrs. Whitcher had their final sale and left to make their home at Everett, Washington. They left me their dog "Sandy" and two cats.

On April the 10th, 1946, I was married to Ruth Evelyn Cadman (nee Egger). She had one son, Alfred William Cadman, by her previous marriage. At eight years he thought the farm was the only place in the world to live. He loved the calves and little pigs and especially his saddle horse. He rode to school at Aspelund and helped a great deal with chores.

In the spring of 1948, our hopes were high. Everything was going good. A new dairy barn and a house was in sight. The logs were cut and lumber sawed and drying. The electricity was coming to our district. We thought we would soon be working under different conditions. It was not to be. I received a spinal injury that kept me hospitalized and in bed for most of the spring and following summer. It still bothers me at times.

Wonderful neighbors and friends at Poplar Ridge and Aspelund, leaving their own crops not finished, they arrived at my place early on a Monday morning to put my crop in. When seventeen men and fifteen tractors and equipment move in, they mean business. Very well organized and followed later in the morning by eight ladies with a real banquet for all. They finished the job in one day.

One would have to be in our position to full appreciate what our neighbors had done for us. A reliable hired man was not available at any price. Ours would not do chores. Ruth and Alf had the eighteen cows to milk, cream separator to turn by hand, feed calves, two hundred pigs of different ages. The work load was very heavy. The happiest days of my life was when I could make it to the kitchen on my own and have the dishes washed.

In August, we decided we would have to sell everything as I had not improved enough to work. The crop was looking beautiful. We sold it standing to Mr. and Mrs. Henry Metz.

We bought the "Sylvan Court" at Sylvan Lake and operated there for nineteen years.

After a trip to the Mayo Clinic, Rochester, my health began to improve in 1956. I was then elected to the Town Council and served for nine years. I am a Charter Member of the Sylvan Lake Lions Club. I played my part in having the sewer system put in at Sylvan, also the Liquor Store. Why? To keep that traffic off the highway.

We made many close friends through the business at Sylvan and enjoy visits from them still.

In 1966, we sold the motel and bought apartments, thinking the work load would be much easier, it was. We moved to Red Deer to Eastview and have no intention of leaving except for winter holidays in Hawaii. We have our motor home and enjoy camping with friends in summer, fishing especially at Campbell River, B.C., for salmon.

Alfred married Shirley Butterworth of Kamloops and they have four children: one girl, Linda, who plans to marry Kelly Kisio in July, 1980, three boys, Ronald, Danny and Travis — all at school.

The George Theakston Family

George Theakston lived at Kindersley, Sask., and in Northern Alberta before coming to Red Deer from Calgary in the early 1930's.

They first lived in a house on the farm of L. Reveyand for whom he worked for a short time. George was a very good mechanic on the cars of the time and handy man in general and could repair anything from cars to clocks. He soon acquired a Model T Ford coupe and a trailer and went into the business of cutting stove wood and hauling it to Red Deer and Sylvan Lake, besides the Reverand farm they lived on a number of other farms in the Poplar Ridge district.

In the early days of his wood hauling business, George and his wife, Bertha, sawed the wood by hand but he soon acquired a saw and frame and by removing one back fender and jacking up that side of the car was able to use the wheel to power the saw. As time went by they got a second trailer and the saw was mounted on this with a car motor to power it. This was a big improvement and he was now able to do custom sawing and cut wood for people not only in Poplar Ridge but also in the surrounding districts.

The Model T Ford had now been replaced by a 1928 Chevy and George had acquired a grain grinder that he could mount on his wood sawing frame in place of the saw and as there were a number of farmers who at the time had no way of grinding their own grain and had been taking it to Red Deer with horses and wagon, this was a very welcome service to the community.

George and Bertha had three children: Glen who was the oldest, Garth died in Northern Alberta, and Shirley who was born just before the Second War.

When hauling wood to Sylvan Lake, the road was such that cars didn't go very fast and there were always a lot of dogs came out to chase them. Glen and Bill McBlane sometimes rode on the trailer and shot stones at the dogs with slingshots, this was a lot of fun for the boys and as the road was so rough the result

was no harm to the dogs. One day the trailer came unhooked from the car and two very scared young boys watched the car drive away in the dust. The trailer, after slowing somewhat, ran into a shallow ditch and stopped. While there had been no harm done to the boys or the trailer, it was decided that they could no longer ride on the trailer and enjoy their sport.

After moving a number of times, George and Bertha were able to get an acreage on the corner of S.E. of 26-38-28 W. of the 4th, but Bertha wasn't long to enjoy her own home and passed away just as the War broke out. She was a very kind and conscientious person and will be long remembered by those who knew her. After her mother's death, Shirley made her home with Duncan and Emma McBlane for a few months at which time George remarried and she returned to live with her father who had moved to Edmonton.

George and Glen joined the armed forces and were soon overseas. Glen was killed in action and George was wounded and sent home.

After one or two brief visits to see old friends, they lost touch with the community and haven't been heard from for some years.

Mr. and Mrs. John (Jack) Thompson

Mr. and Mrs. John (Jack) Thompson sailed from England on the S.S. Ivernia with two small girls in



Mr. and Mrs. Jack Thompson, June, 1947.

March of 1908 landing in Boston, Mass. They visited with Mr. Thompson's brother and family before going on to Brandon, Manitoba, where he worked on a farm for one year learning the Canadian ways of farming. Mr. Thompson later took up his own land six miles west of Okotoks before moving to Aldersyde for some years and finally obtaining the land west of Red Deer, then owned by Dr. Sanders of Collison and Sanders, in 1923 — W½ 23-38-28 W4th.

There are many tales to be told of brush cutting and stump blowing to clear the land as only 60 acres were under cultivation at that time. Bad luck pursued the Thompsons when their house burned down in 1924 and the loss of a son soon after. We all remember sleeping in army tents until another home was moved from Red Deer by 16 horses onto the same site.

There are four Thompson children surviving: Kathleen Mosley of Claresholm, Margaret Godfrey of Nelson, B.C., Nancy deZeeuw of Red Deer, and Hal Thompson living on the original home farm which he now owns.

Hal Thompson was born near Okotoks, June 30, 1912, and came with his parents to Red Deer in 1923 and attended school at the Poplar Ridge School. He was married August 10th, 1939, to the former Aillie Johnson of Eckville and they had two girls: Mrs. J. R. Roth (Jean) also of Poplar Ridge and Mrs. W. R. Boyce (Beth) of Calgary. Hal was a school trustee as well as an original member of the R.E.A. (Rural Electrification Board) and at one time had a prosperous dairy business before disbanding it and going into feeder cattle and hogs. Hal attended Olds Agricultural College during 1927-1928.



Hal and Aillie Thompson.



Four Generations: Martha (Mrs. Jack) Thompson, Hal, Jean Roth, Bonnie, Rose Roth.

Jacob (Jack) Tinner

Jacob Tinner and his wife, Maria, came to live in the Poplar Ridge district in April, 1930: They purchased land formerly owned by the Tooley family.

Jacob Tinner was very interested in and helped promote the Red Deer Co-op store and the Red Deer Condensery. He was also one of the first members and on the Board of Directors of what is now Red Deer Parkland Savings and Credit Union.

Jacob also helped with the 4-H Club in Poplar Ridge and took an active part in community activities.

Maria was a member of the W.I. She was at home a lot, looking after the farm while Jacob was attending meetings.

Jacob and Maria sold their farm in 1958 to Roy Bahler and moved back to their native Switzerland to spend their retirement years.



Mr. and Mrs. Jack Tinner farewell party, November 15, 1958. Left is Ruth Tettelowski.

Jacob died in 1977 at age 83. Maria now lives in Thun, Switzerland, and is still quite spry at age 83.

History of Poplar Ridge

Jack Yeoman Tooley — born in 1893, Hertfordshire, England.

Florence Elsie Elliott — born in 1897, London, England

Jack arrived in Canada in 1907 at the age of 14 years. Having lost both his parents, he was sent out to Canada by relatives to stay with a cousin who was paid to care for him. He was made to wash the cream separator and do other household chores which wasn't to his liking so he found himself a job working for the Hazletts on their homestead near Red Deer. On his arrival in Canada, he was dressed in short pants and was wearing a pistol on his belt. While travelling from England he must have met someone who gave him a false impression of the Canadian west.

Jack was of Irish descent and never could turn down a good fight so when the 1914-18 war started, he enlisted in the Canadian army and went overseas. He was injured and while recuperating at Ramsgate, England, he met Florence who was vacationing there. They became engaged.

Jack returned to Canada in 1916. Florence followed in 1919. Upon stepping off the train, she was met by her fiancé in a beautiful new buggy and matching team. From there Jack took Florence to stay with Mr. and Mrs. Pace who were homesteading in the Blackfalds district. She remained there until their marriage on January 7, 1920.

They lived first on a rented homestead in the Blackfalds area in a log cabin. Daylight could be seen through the cracks in the logs. Fortunately, the young couple had their love to keep them warm as anything freezeable was frozen solid in the morning. They stayed there the one year then moved to a homestead at Poplar Ridge which they bought through the Soldier Settlement Board. Land description — NW 10-39-28-4.

Florence was keen to ride horseback so Jack bought her a horse which she named Lilly. The first time she ventured out alone, she visited the neighbors who lived in the valley. On returning, she kept sliding back on the horse. When she got home, she told Jack the horse was very clever. That it kept jumping to put her back in position. Jack was horrified as, of course, the horse was bucking.

Florence was a true pioneer and loved farming. She learned to milk and made very good butter, some of which was sold in Red Deer. In the summer the butter was lowered into the well where it kept beautifully.

One of her greatest trials was learning to kill a chicken. At one time they were out of meat so Florence having never done without meat was very hungry for it. She caught a chicken and took it to the chopping block and said to the chicken, "Come on ducky, put your head down there". The chicken was very obliging and laid its neck on the block and looked up and winked at her. That was more than Florence could take. She let it go and said "Oh, you poor thing. I just can't do it." After the third try and the craving for meat became too intense, Florence, after apologizing profusely to the chicken, managed to complete the job.



Jack and Florence Tooley. Their wedding picture, 1920.



The buggy that Jack Tooley came to Red Deer in to meet his future bride, Florence Elliott, 1919.

Florence had lost her wedding ring while at Blackfalds and amazingly enough she found it at Poplar Ridge. It is surmised that a cow carried it from one homestead to another in its stomach.

The neighbors to the south were Bill and Nellie Smith and son, Robert. On the other side were Mr. Duck and his son, Lindsey. Mrs. Duck was deceased. The Maga family lived west of them.

People had to make their own entertainment in those days so concerts and dances were very popular. Box socials were often an added attraction.

Florence and Jack were very musical so often took part in the entertainment. He played the violin and she sang or they sang duets together.

The couple had the first radio in the district. It could be heard only through earphones.

Jack built a windmill which provided water for the stock and also pumped water up to the house into a large holding tank for use in the home.

Jack could divine for water. He used a forked willow stick to find the underground streams and located wells for many people. To our knowledge he was never wrong.

During the time of prohibition, Jack decided to try his hand at making an alcoholic beverage out of grain. For part of the process the copper tubing from the tractor was used and then returned to its proper place immediately after the job was completed. Jack wanted proof of the quality of his product so called in friends and neighbors to enjoy his hospitality and sample a little of his recipe. Meanwhile, he and a friend provided the music and I doubt there was a more jovial bunch of dancers in the country.

Sometime later, Jack's spirits were slightly dampened when the R.C.M.P. all decked out in their red coats arrived at the homestead to do a little investigating. They found the homestead very commonplace. The tractor sat in its usual place in the yard and but a short distance away a barrel lay on its side. Jack soon joined them in the yard and was questioned by the Mountie who had one foot on the barrel. They never found anything amiss but the home brew they were looking for was in the barrel. Needless to say, Jack's career as a distiller came to an abrupt end.

The four big events in their lives on the homestead were Dick, Verna, Jean, and Nancy.

Nancy chose to make her appearance while Jack was some distance away breaking land. The hired man, who's name was Bert Moorby, was sent to get Mrs. Sam Hart, the midwife. She was picking blueberries and couldn't be located in time for the birth. Florence gave strict orders to her three young children to stay downstairs and play quietly, she then went upstairs and alone gave birth to her fourth child,

Nancy. Mrs. Hart arrived several hours later and took care of mother and baby.

Dick and Verna both attended the Poplar Ridge School. It is thought Verna started in the spring of 1929. On her first day, they rode a big work horse named Fritz which Verna was very afraid of. Not far from home she fell off. Brother Dick patiently pulled the horse up to a fence post and helped her back on but she promptly fell off the other side. Finally, after several tries Verna managed to keep her place on the horse and very gingerly Dick was able to climb aboard too. Once again they were on their way but the horse wasn't in a hurry and continually stopped to enjoy a bite of grass. Verna felt the horse must be hungry so suggested to Dick that they allow it to eat its way to school which was a distance of four miles. As the morning passed, the two became hungry and so ate their lunches.

There seems to be no record of Verna having gone to the Poplar Ridge School at all. Could it be that since she and Dick didn't arrive until noon for a whole month that the teacher thought it not worth while to add her name to the roster? The class very kindly shared their lunch with the late comers, as by the time they arrived they were hungry again.

The only encounter they had with Indians was when Dick was a small boy. A family of them came to the homestead looking for work. Dick went running into the house and yelled "Mama, come quick. There's some Englishmans outside." He was, undoubtedly, under the impression that anyone that spoke differently or with an accent must be English.

The family moved to Sylvan Lake in 1930 where Jack returned to his trade of Carpenter and Cabinet Maker. He learned his trade in Calgary while regaining his health after the First World War.

Their fifth child, Georgina, was born in 1933.

Jack took an active part in public affairs. He was on the school board for several years and in 1938 became a member of the village council — 1938-1940.

Jack spent his leisure time in summer sailing on the lake in a boat which he, himself, built. Florence assisted in the making of the sail which was canvas and sewn on a treadle sewing machine.

Florence continued to sing at social affairs and for years was a member of the Sylvan Lake Presbyterian Church Choir. To this day her voice can be plainly heard among the other singers at St. Mary's, the little church which she attends regularly.

When the second war broke out, 1939-45, Jack once again offered to serve his country. He was rejected many times but never gave up and was finally accepted in 1940. Three of his children also joined the army: Dick, Verna and Jean.

Jack went overseas as a Tradesman. When the war ended he went to Germany with the occupational forces where he stayed until 1947. On his return to Canada, he became the Building Inspector for the town of Sylvan Lake and remained so until close to the end of his life.

Jack died in 1959 and Florence still lives in Sylvan Lake with her daughter, Verna Anderson.

Dick married Kathleen Slocum. He was a welder by trade but it was thought earlier that he should have been a surgeon. After Christmas each year, he managed to talk Jean into allowing him to operate on her doll. He always stated the doll needed an appendectomy but once he removed the apparatus that made the doll cry he lost interest. He never learned much about sutures.

Dick was killed in an industrial accident May 5th, 1975. His wife, Kathleen, lives in Whitecourt, Alberta. Their children are: Richard, Geraldine (Mrs. W. Reynders), Kathleen (Mrs. R. Hayward), and William.

Verna married Henry Woodley in 1943. After the war, she was employed by the Merit Stores Ltd. in Stettler, Alberta, and held the position of Department Manager for 13 years. Children from this union are Myrna Jean (Mrs. M. Halsall), and Richard.

Jean married Walter Staudinger in 1942 and was widowed in 1962. She lives in Lethbridge and has been in Day Care for 21 years. In that time she has owned and operated the "Kradle Koop" and "Narnia". She is now in the process of building a modern day care centre which is to be named "Aslan". Their children are: Teresa (Mrs. L. McLeod), Melanie (Mrs. M. Zola), and Linda.

Nancy married Marcus Elle, who passed away in 1968. She also lives in Lethbridge and has owned and operated the "Cuddle Bunny" Day Care Centre since 1971. Nancy's children are Neil, Patricia, and George.

Georgina married Robert Gartshore in 1954. She was very interested in aquatics and was a Life Guard at Sylvan Lake in 1951 at the age of 18 years. She taught swimming for the Red Cross for 28 years and was presented with a long service award. Georgina was a Guide leader and sang in the Presbyterian church choir. She now lives in Victoria with her husband and family. The names of their children are: Ian, Brian, David, Brenda, and Jennifer.

Jack and Florence had 17 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren.

story by Verna Anderson (nee Tooley)

The Truants

Poplar Ridge (1977) Land: E ½ 22-38-28-W4.

Bertha and Dino Truant lived in the Sunnybrook

district of Red Deer for 15 years where their three children: Mario, Renee and Dean grew up.

Dino Truant, born and raised in Red Deer, is the youngest son of Roma and Romano Truant who owned and operated the Red Deer Bottling Co. (Coca-Cola) bought in 1933. Dino has an older brother, Alfio. Roma Truant passed on in 1964. Romano was semi-retired in 1971 and the family business was subsequently managed and inherited by Dino and Alfio when their father suddenly passed on in December, 1977 at the age of 78 years.

Bertha Truant, born and raised on a large farm north of Red Deer in the Crossroads district, is the daughter of Ted and Eveline Pomerleau. This was a large family of nine children. A young brother, Adrian, passed on in infancy and Ted Pomerleau, a C.P.R. Engineer passed away in 1958 after serving 45 years on the railroad.

In 1976, the Truant boys purchased from Mr. and Mrs. Henry Metz, a half section of land situated on the Poplar Ridge Road, approximately three miles west of Red Deer. The Metz's decided to sell the farm and retire to the city.

For Bertha, having been born and raised on a farm and absolutely hating city life, it was a golden opportunity to get back on the land. Dino proceeded to move old buildings, set fire to the barn and granaries and, in general, clean up the barn yard where a new home would be built in January, 1977, moving in June 25th of the same year.

We're sure our neighbors must have wondered what was going on with all the activity and many fires.



Bertha and Dino Truant.

Dino having owned and flown his own airplane for many years in order to keep track of the Company business which covers all of Central Alberta, north to Hobbema, south to but not including Olds, east to Altario, and west to Nordegg and the David Thompson Resort, plus warehousing in Drumheller, is now able to land the plane at the farm, it being on hand when he needs it.

Along with Red Deer Bottling, the Truant boys have been involved in many business ventures in the past ten years. The most recent being a venture into the oil business, a company called "Contact Well Services", involving four service rigs. It was formulated and organized by Dino and is now in operation throughout Alberta. (See Advocate — Sept. 17/1980.)

Upon moving into the district, the three Truant children hopped the County School bus to attend classes at St. Thomas Aquinas and Camille Lerouge Collegiate. To date, Mario works at Red Deer Bottling and Contact Well Services. Renee is attending the Red Deer College (Bachelor of Education) and Dean is in Grade 11 at Camille.

Our neighbors are Joe and Jean Roth to the east. Joe had farmed the land for the Metz family and continues to farm for us. Directly north, across the road live Andy and Marg Whyte. To the northwest are Fred and Marion Soderberg and adjoining our property on the west lives Mr. and Mrs. Moore.

Dino also was one of the original organizers of the Old Timers Hockey Association, still in operation today. He was honored last year, 1979, at the annual banquet and dance. His hobbies include hockey, fishing, flying and hunting. In August, he was called on to assist in a Search and Rescue operation near Rocky using his airplane. A sad ending.

Bertha, when not tending her garden (A good one this year, thanks to Bob Edgar, Jr., and his truck load of manure) and helping care for her mother, answering the many business phone calls and watering newly planted trees, can be found working part-time at the Wardrobe, a ladies fashion dress shop in Red Deer.

Floyd J. Van Slyke

Floyd Van Slyke was born at Heisler, Alberta, in 1926, the eldest son of John O. and Ruth Van Slyke. They lived on and farmed the J. W. Van Slyke homestead until 1944 when they bought and moved to the W. Heenan farm in the Blindman Valley, one mile north of Prevo. Floyd's brother Orville settled in the Durham District. His other brothers: Gilbert (Gib) and Roger live in Vancouver, B.C.

Floyd completed Grade 12 at the Red Deer High School in 1944-45 and then started farming with his father.

In 1948, Floyd and Laura Schmidt, daughter of Emil and Ruth Schmidt of the Durham District, were married. They bought the Joe Depauw farm (NW 3-39-28-W4) in the Poplar Ridge District where they moved after living with Floyd's parents for a year. There they raised their family and developed a successful farming operation which continues to be the Van Slyke family farm.

Wendy was born in 1951, the first grandchild in both the Schmidt and Van Slyke families. Larry was born in 1954, the same year Floyd and Laura built their new house on the farm. Wendy and Larry attended school at River Glen and Lindsay Thurber Composite High School in Red Deer. They both completed their post-secondary education at the University of Calgary. Wendy obtained a Bachelor of Social Work Degree in 1974 and Larry graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree in 1976.

Wendy married John Klassen of Coaldale, Alberta, in 1974, and they currently reside in Medicine Hat, Alberta. John, who also has a Bachelor of Social Work is employed as the Volunteer Coordinator of the Refugee Resettlement Program. Wendy is the Early Childhood Services Coordinator for the City of Medicine Hat.

Upon completion of University, Larry returned to the family farm. He purchased a quarter of land adjoining the home place from W. Maga. Laura, Floyd, and Larry formed a company, Van Slyke Farms, to operate the poultry enterprise which was first established in 1967 and has grown to 15,000 birds.

Floyd was Director on the Board of the Red Deer Co-op for 13 years and only resigned when he was elected to the Alberta Egg and Fowl Marketing Board in 1975. The following year he became Chairman of this organization.

Laura worked with her husband to build the farm

and the home and as is the case with most farm wives contributed beyond the call of duty in doing the chores, hauling grain, gardening, and landscaping, as well as caring for the home and family.

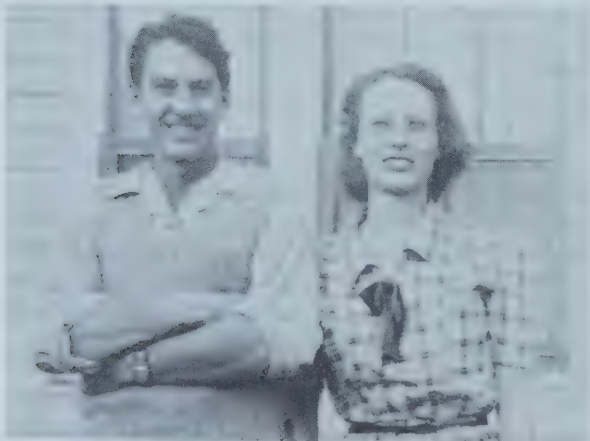
Laura's positive and caring attitude won her the love and respect of her many friends and neighbors. In later years her friendships extended across Canada through her active support to Floyd in his role with the Egg and Fowl Marketing Board.

At Christmas, 1978, it was discovered during gall bladder surgery that Laura had cancer. After a difficult struggle with the disease, she died on March 1, 1980.

Herman Veal by Arvid Whitehead

As a young man, he came to Poplar Ridge in 1910 onto the N-½ 35-38-28-W4 from Idaho. On the east quarter, he built a hip roof house. This house accidentally was burned down in 1977. The land is now owned by Mr. Edgar. He farmed this for a while then sold that place and built on the west quarter. This house is still there and those spruce trees were planted by his wife, Ruby. His family of four girls: Helen born 1910, Beatrice — 1913, Velma — 1915, Alberta — 1916. All attended school at Poplar Ridge. His only son, Claude, was born in 1923. At first, my uncle lived in a sod roof house which was on the side of the hill across the road from Mr. Christian. Herman spent one year in the U.S. Army during the Spanish American War of 1898. I used to quizz him as to how many soldiers he captured. "Well," he said, "I would go out in the morning and get just enough for breakfast".

In 1920 or 1921 he farmed with a tractor. The make of it was an "All Work" tractor. He used to



Laura and Floyd Van Slyke, 1949.



Mr. Veal, Velma, Mr. Christian, Beatrice, Mrs. Veal, Flo Neal, Mrs. Christian, Edna Christian, Alberta, Helen Veal.

drive it to the neighbors and other districts to thresh their grain. He had many setbacks and recalled hail as being the worst. One year he told of was that his crop was completely hailed out after it was stooked.

My cousin, Velma, tells me the story that when she was born her mother could not nurse her so they had a mare that had just foaled so she was fed mare's milk until their cow had freshened. I said to her that gives a good reason for you to kick over the traces. Veals were good neighbors and they especially helped my parents get established in the west. Herman liked cars while here he had a 1917 McLaughlin touring car. He cared for them well and he had quite a few rare models in his time. His only son, Claude, was born in 1923. Claude operates a service station in Vernonia. That is the place where Mr. Veal in 1924 moved his family to and he retired from farming.

Velma and Alberta live in Vernonia, Helen and Beatrice have passed away. Herman did carpenter work while he lived in Oregon and lived to be 86.

Herman Veal

Herman Veal, a cousin of Levi Miller, lived in the Poplar Ridge district in the early 1900's. He owned the farm now owned by C. D. Corrigan and built the house now owned by Tom Percival. He was a good carpenter.

Later, he moved to the farm east of this, known as the McLeod place, and built a big house there which burned down a few years ago. This property is now owned by Edgars. His wife was a sister of Mrs. Whitehead, whose history is elsewhere in this book. They had three or four girls. Helen, Velma, and Alta. They moved back to U.S.A. in the 1920's.

Lyle and Margaret Walker (nee Marshall)

Lyle and Margaret Walker live on the acreage that was formerly the Post Treating Plant. Lyle's parents lived in the Lacombe area. He went to Central and Eureka school and had Sam Davidson for a teacher in 1941.

Margaret's father, David Marshall, was born in Big Timber, Montana, in 1898 and came to Okotoks in 1905 with his mother, father and two children. They traveled by covered wagon which took two months. Triplet sons were born the same year. They resided in a log house until they moved to the Nevis area to farm in 1907. They still live there.

Lyle and Margaret were married in Red Deer in 1955. They have four children:

Brenda born 1957 married Mr. Berresford in 1979 and lives in Penhold.

Heather born 1959 married Mr. Wiering in 1980 and lives in Lacombe.

Bryan born 1965 lives at home.

Marlene born in 1966 also lives at home.

The family enjoys curling and golf.

Ward, George and Beatrice — Quarter Section — N.E. 2-39-28-W4

George Ward and Beatrice Mason came to Canada from England a few years apart in the first decade of the 1900's. They met while both were employed on a ranch in Saskatchewan, and were married at Swift Current in 1915.

Having had most of the responsibility of running a family farm in Shropshire from a fairly early age, George was an experienced stock farmer by the time he left it for Canada in 1909. Going first straight to Victoria, B.C., he then followed his plan to literally and figuratively work back eastward, in agricultural areas mostly. After their marriage, Mother and Dad stayed on at the ranch near Grenfell, Saskatchewan, until they came to Pincher Creek. An assignment from there was taking 3,000 sheep with a few men and one dog into Alberta's foothills for summer grazing. A variety of ranching and farming experience for Dad; and domestic, seamstress and governess work for Mother, some of which took her on her own to Calgary and Banff, moved them about Western Canada. From about a year of urban employment in New Westminster, (Dad had saved enough cash for them to look for their own farm. This brought him to a quarter-section offered for sale in Poplar Ridge by Mr. and Mrs. Fred Brownrigg and their young daughter, Ethel.) From nearest connections he phoned to B.C. to Mother that he had "found it." The dwelling was Mother's concern and she found it to be log for the living-dining room with an all-shingle large kitchen added on. A verandah was across the front of the log structure, and a bank of wild roses grew along the southern side of the kitchen.

Although a native of Sheffield, England, for more than a quarter of her life, Mother did her share of the farm's development, as other settlers' wives did. A hazard of this particular farm was peat smouldering underground which at least twice over a five-year span ignited the base of a strawstack to threaten a nearby full wooden granary. Mother was the chief fire-fighter and was alone with her twelve-year old daughter on the second outbreak. The buggy horse with which Dad and their younger daughter were whirring on the homeward stretch was startled into having the reins drop on her sharply as Dad caught sight of the flare from the top sideroad rise. If Dad was late returning from wagon freighting grain or dressed lamb to Red Deer, eight miles away, Moth-

er seemed to revel in helping, even in the bitterest winters to bed down and feed barnstock. Approximately ten acres had been cleared when our parents took over the farm in 1919. A walking plow, as in most pioneer's fields, was used in breaking further grain fields. Four-horse machinery was very gradually acquired for cultivation and harvesting. The two girls had grown big enough to pick out and place on a stoneboat the stones after breaking by the time final clearing had been done by a hired out machinery operation.

Exciting were the days when a cylinder-record gramophone, and later a radio, came as surplus from the W. Christians' household. At least one piano concert given in the district by Mrs. Soderman was attended by Mother, her two small daughters along, too young to remember this treat. A barn raising celebration was given by Mr. E. Finch and family to our west. Democrat trips to Sylvan Lake were made, probably at the invitation of the R. V. Wilkins' to our east, or the Christians or Finch families. There were always blocks of wood to be chopped into stove size pieces. Small bees of neighbor men would come to saw up the fuel logs culled from pasture woods during an occasional winter. Our mail route was attended to by Mr. W. Silverberg in all weather, his mode of transportation from the Red Deer Post Office to each top of the road mail box being remembered as chiefly car, with perhaps the occasional light-horse conveyance during our early years. A Mr. George Churches, a south-England old-countryman, would come out from Red Deer to help Dad shear his sheep a few seasons. Supply and demand was balanced at the time the man passing through on foot on the look-out for casual labor in the early '30's was paid by bed in our unfinished upstairs; and lodging, before moving on. A few men hired from this same source over harvest time also added to the general table conversation. We would use our home-made one-horse cutter to take the weekly produce of a can of cream to town, dropping it off at the Red Deer Creamery. Sometimes, with bigger freight, Dad would drive a sleigh which was actually the wagon box put on runners. If the driver found facing the wind a bit much on the home journey, he would wind the reins around a peg and join those sitting under robes or blankets on the strawed floor.

Some winters, the snow in the area would drift in a somewhat even level over fence post tops. Steady snowfalls and blizzard winds would pack snow tightly enough to allow team and sleigh to pass over without breaking the surface. Some knowing horses would catch on to leaving the trail in the side road to pass through all fields in a shortcut to the barn. One morning, on stepping outside to check the ther-

mometer, Dad found the glass shattered because of the mercury not being able to register an overnight minus 55°F.

The horse who "stood" was Bessie, a business-like brown mare included with two other horses on Dad's take-over. On the second cutting of a wheat field within yards of the house, Mother gradually realized Dad's three-horse binder had overstalled for no apparent reason. The sound of the operating machine had ceased briefly just prior to the commotion while Dad had stepped down to attend to a minor repair. His continual non-too polite urging for the team to go forward on regaining his seat carried to her in the upstairs of the house. She stepped to the window and from looking down on the frustrated scene spotted Doris, their three-year-old, standing in front of the knives. The two horses to Bessie's right tried to pull forward as it definitely sounded they do, but Bessie stood. The horses hindsight showing the oncoming rarely used whip caused a lurch forward by the other two. Still Bessie stood, planting her feet more firmly to take the resulting shock. The whip lost its purpose as Dad, growing puzzled at a refusal from a consistently eagerly willing horse, became aware of Mother, who, not knowing how, had leapt over the top poles of the yard fence, calling his name as she tore toward him. On spotting Doris innocently standing between the knives and Bessie, her hair the color of the thick grains of wheat, Dad had to be steadied on leaving the machine. Mother helped him loose the horses; field work was over for that day.

Some of the field implements were sheltered somewhat by being drawn up close to the barnyard over winter. Dad's check of the binder would first find him softly approaching the twine-box. A bluebird had discovered that the hole of this cylinder was just big enough to let her nest there during the summer. A tiny bird unconsciously held control for some summers as to when a man would begin the yearly overhaul of his machine, for nary was she disturbed 'til the nest was empty. Those were the days when meadowlarks were also fairly common. The marshland from Sylvan Lake northward likely was a brief stopping place for the flocks of geese. Their migration channels brought them within hearing distance of our farm, their northeasterly flight thrillingly announcing Spring. The piercing sound of the bluejay was heard throughout the woods, as was the drumming of the grouse. One day in the mid-'30's, we saw a moose grazing with our cattle. On apprehending our coming outside, he jumped the barbed wire effortlessly and trotted into the woods.

Savings accounts for Dad's two youngsters were early established when, under Mother's supervision, we opened them with the \$4.00 and \$3.00 respec-

tively “earned”. This was easy money, acquired in fun from the evening the ewes and lambs were corralled by Dad and his two “men”. We watched with controlled excitement during the first year or two, as Dad slowly moved into the flock, looking for the most likely of his developing lambs. Finally one was drawn out with a shepherd’s crook. From the fence one of the miniature cowhands would run to Dad with the neckband at the end of a long stout rope at the ready. After the choosing of the second lamb two little girls had each to contend with a leaping, straining, “doggie” at the end of her rope. Dad would be nearby in case of unexpectancies. Although the lambs would have been naturally weaned or nearly so, the mothers circled as close as they dared, bleating their protest. Joe, a stocky purebred Shropshire, would probably have been led to the barn. Joe let it be tellingly known we were not to harass his flock nor tease himself. After a summer of feeding and training, the lambs stood in a line of like neatly trimmed halfgrown sheep, all with a young attendant at its head at the annual fall country School Fair. The first ewe lambs released into the flock again after the Fair showed no resistance after being singled out for shearing or other attention each year but stood in trust. Developing his flock was as much an art to Dad as nurturing her large garden of varied vegetables for table use was to Mother. Because of their conformation and the hand-feeding, Dad’s lambs always wore ribbons on their return to their exhibition barn. Our vegetables, however, were nearly always collected from their discard piles at the end of the Fair day. Regulations for their exhibiting were that the seeds distributed through the schools to each youngster were to be planted and tended by the prospective exhibitors themselves. Grading our uniformly straightest and most evenly matched half-dozen units twice over of the carrots and parsnips and the smoothest of the beets from their patch in the farm garden was an enjoyable activity each fall. This Fair accommodated all possible agricultural activity among the very young generation. From all country school districts circumventing Red Deer, classified exhibits of draft horses, and beef and dairy cattle and sheep entered the judging ring, the hogs being judged in their barn. Under cover in long pavilions, lines of tables joined end to end held washed vegetables and the preserves and baked goods of school girls. Misses entering the sewing department had their handsewn dresses and aprons hung along a wall toward the Arts department, embroidery work being placed on benches below. The walls of artwork showed teacher-chosen contributions of freehand pencil drawings, India ink work, and crayoned and watercolor pictures. Many of these showed a detailed

map of Alberta originating from the Geography periods of the school term. Some essays penned in the best handwriting mustered were pinned within reading range. The mellowness of September added to the animated atmosphere as young and older mingled in fun and happy conversation at this one-day annual event. Boys’ and Girls’ Beef and Dairy Clubs evolved from about the mid-’30’s and were of general great success throughout the Red Deer area.

By early 1938, it was a great convenience for us to acquire a second-hand Chev. Before this, when cars had become prevalent in the district, we were generously offered motor trips to town. Mrs. MacEachern to our southwest along the Sylvan Lake Trail at times called around for Mother and her weekly produce, and Mrs. W. Huss called with a Bennett buggy on team trips to market. One or two of our family would also be given lifts in her family’s car, long purchased before their coming to our immediate north. Dad much appreciated the mechanical help he received in what precious harvest time the two men could give while he was struggling to maintain his horse-drawn binder. During a summer in the latter ’30’s, surplus of our young stock of beef animals and a couple of maturing work horses were run onto a communal pasture in the Crossroads district. The steers, somewhat grass finished, were driven on foot by Dad, Doris and Olive to Red Deer’s stockyards. With his skill of managing many animals of mixed farming having gone with him when he passed away in 1938, the 200-odd sheep were sold. The flock was quietly moved up the sideroad one morning by the sheep rancher, purchaser, and his helpers. After estimating their progress along the Sylvan Lake Trail past Walter Hart’s farm south of us, we looked toward the gap in the brush lining the main road toward Mrs. MacEachren’s property. The space became filled with a miniwave of dimmed white flowing onto a new home west of Sylvan Lake. The surplus of the horses were sold, with hogs, chickens and dual-purpose cows kept. Doris, who had recently returned from final formal education with a term at Olds Agricultural College, majoring in girls’ home economics, efficiently managed this department. The grain fields were rented out to Mr. W. Christian’s all machinery tilling, his threshing unit having harvested our grain fields along with others through the district. This arrangement gradually brought our farm out of necessarily imposed heavy interest until, within five years, the farm title came to Mother. The farm was sold in 1943 to a young couple under whose ownership it remained until it was acquired by Mr. and Mrs. T. Percival. Mrs. Ward was reluctant to leave the farm sentiment-wise, having grown fond of it. She was especially fond of walking along a path into the

woods across a small meadow from the house for an occasional fresh pail of drinking water. The forefront of the trees in the pasture blocks adjoined would sometimes, as in all the districts, be coated with hoar frost Christmas morning where none had been the day before. Christmas Day was a get-together, with others mostly, at the R. V. Wilkins' home, their young daughter, Kathleen added to the joy of the Day. The 1939 Christmas was a green one, coats or sweaters not being worn as we stood for pictures on their lawn. Mr. and Mrs. J. Malinic and family came to the northeast kitty corner to us. They had purchased from Mr. Henry Brownrigg who had acquired it from the Murphy family. Mrs. Malinic became immediately known for her "green thumb". One of Mother's long dormant plants became alive under her temporary care.

Miss Counstance was probably Doris' first teacher at the Poplar Ridge School, with Mr. Miller, Miss Einarson, and Miss Bjelke being successive ones. Olive began school there three terms later, Miss Neilson being her at least Grades VI and VIII teacher. We both spent the next grade at the Crossroads School, Doris taking Grade X there before her term at Olds. Olive attended the Red Deer High School, finishing with a commercial term at a Calgary Secretarial School.



Doris, George, Beatrice, Olive Ward, mid 30's.

The three women were reunited in Calgary, where Mrs. Ward passed on in 1973. Doris retired from a Provincial Government office position early 1980. Olive remains with her in her home she purchased to accommodate the three of us, 1967. It is great to remember the warmly supported acceptance of all of us during our many years among Poplar Ridge folk.

Doris and Olive Ward

Doris Ward

The drill training at Rockcliffe, near Ottawa, in December, 1943, was followed by a month study in Toronto on the functioning strength structures, and caring of various parts of parachutes and harnesses, as well as practicing on the packing procedure. Immediately after our written examinations were marked, we were launched as parachute Riggers with postings within Canada. Groans of disappointment from most of us when no overseas postings were offered.

I was one of three sent to No. 10 Repair Depot, Calgary, west of No. 3 Air Force Flying School. This was dubbed No. 10 Despair Depot on account of the ruling that Air Force Personnel were not allowed to leave the Station in civilian clothes to social events or shopping in the city. Needless to say, clothes were sneaked out in duffle bags. Wonder how often the gate guards winked at each other after they allowed us through.

This station's main function was the maintaining, repairing, and fly testing of aircraft. Seven of us Parachute Riggers worked in the parachute wing of one of the buildings. During the packing process eyes were kept open for possible broken black threads along length of 'chutes' with panels while it was stretched taut on a long table. Harness and pack were inspected also. Each numbered 'chute had its own corresponding numbered log book in which we entered records, the date of packing being one of the important factors. This was because every 'chute periodically required an airing in the parachute well, including the ones that had not been used during that time period.

The percentage of repair work in the parachute section was small, and this was carried out on the harness packs only. Before pilots were allowed to take a repaired 'chute on their planes, these packed 'chutes were assembled on rubber dummies weighing the equivalent weights of smaller, normal, and larger airmen and named: Little Bob, Mid Bob, and Big Bob. Then they were put aboard an aircraft for jump testing over a field now occupied by Calgary's McCall Airport. This was a highlight as we took turns in groups of three accompanying the pilot the short distance to the testing field, always keeping our fingers crossed the 'chutes would operate successfully.

Sport activities and social functions provided recreation and entertainment in the Station.

I was one of the two riggers that remained at No. 10 for a year after the Second World War ended, as the Station was the receiving centre for 'chutes that were shipped in from closing airforce stations across Alberta.

History of the Ward Family

Jack Cummerford and Austin Ward Family purchased the southwest quarter of 11-39-28-West of the 4th Meridian from the late John McDonald in the spring of 1974.



Austin, Jean, Dee, Allan Ward.



Merrilyn, Jack, Brad and George Cummerford.

During the summer both families worked together clearing an area for their homes to be built. In August, 1974, they moved on two mobile homes and took up residence in the Poplar Ridge Community. Since that time they have continued to farm their land as well as the land which they rent.

The Austin Ward Family moved in to this area in 1971 and resided at the previous location of the Pioneer Post Treating Plant. This is where Lyle Walker now lives. The Ward Family consists of Austin, Jean, Dee, and Allan. The children still live at the home and are still attending school in Red Deer. Austin Ward originally lived in the Coronation area with his parents. Jean Ward was born in the Leslieville area to

Mr. and Mrs. Pat Cummerford and lived there until moving to Red Deer as a teenager.

At the present time Jean's mother, Joyce Cummerford, is living at their home. William Bill Bell, an uncle of Jean's, lives on the same land and looks after the livestock of C & W farms.

Jack Cummerford lived in Leslieville until he was 11 then moved to Red Deer. He is the son of Joyce Cummerford. Jack's father, Pat, passed away in 1976. Jack married Merrilyn Cave, daughter of Ruth and Ralph Cave of Red Deer. They had three sons: George in 1962, Brent and Brad in 1965. Brent passed away in 1971.

We moved here after living in the West Park area in Red Deer. George is finished school and Brad is in Grade 10 at Camille.

John T. Warren and Family

I was born in London, England in April of 1900. In the spring of 1913, I left England with my parents, two brothers and a sister, arriving at Carstairs. In 1914, we moved to the Winborne District, east of Innisfail, where the Warren Family started farming. I remember many hard-ships in those early days. One was sleeping in an old straw barn until we built a house. Also, the first cow we had fell in the dug well.

In 1918, I lost my oldest brother with the bad flu. Years went on and as our farm got larger I met a girl by the name of Emily Knowler. In 1928, we were married and I continued farming with my dad and brother.

In 1932, our first of two son's arrived, James D., and in 1935 — Harry.

In April of 1944, Emily and I decided to sell out



Jim, Mrs. Warren, Mr. Warren, Harry.

as Mom had died several years before and my brother had left for British Columbia. After the farm sale, we went to Calgary for the summer where I worked for Burns Packing Plant.

In July, Dad passed away after coming back from England. After looking all over Central Alberta for a small farm, in the fall of 1944, Emily and I purchased the N.E. ¼ of 28-38-28-W4 in the Poplar Ridge District, owned by Frank Hannecart. With our two sons, Jim and Harry, we moved in on the 28th of November in the first snow storm of the winter.

Our closest neighbors at that time were William Woof and sons, Joe Roth, Will Hunt and Federoffs.

The first three years, I farmed with horses then I soon went back to the tractor in 1948.

Many a Sunday, for years in the summer, was spent on fishing trips with Ray and Edith Hannecart. In those days fishing was good.

In the winter months, I was now busy with hockey as my son, Harry, and Ross Harvey were now playing hockey in Red Deer. In 1951, at the end of March on one hockey trip we did not make it home as the big storm of '51 hit. We got as far as Joe Duval's on the Sylvan Lake Highway and there we stayed, along with 28 other people. Harry and I had to walk home on top of the snow drifts the next afternoon. After arriving home, we found the chores were all done as Emily had walked over and got Joe Lewis as we had no phones at that time.

In 1953-54, with the help of Mr. W. Stewart, Jim and Bob, we built our new home which was quite a chore in those days.

In 1955, Emily's dad and mother, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Knowler, moved into our old house after retiring from the City of Calgary and later moving to the Twilight Lodge in Red Deer.

In 1956, I started work with McGavins and Toastmaster in Red Deer working early in the mornings at their warehouse. Harry and I still did the farming on week-ends and evenings.

In 1958, the four of us made a big trip to the United States where I met my sister May for the first time in 30 years.

In 1959, our oldest son, Jim, was married to Evelyn Schalk of Red Deer whom he had met while working at Safeways in Red Deer. Harry still remained at home farming and also working in Red Deer.

In November, 1966, after 22 years in the Poplar Ridge district, we sold our farm to Jensen Bros., buying their three quarters northwest of Lacombe.

In January, 1978, Emily and I had our 50th wedding anniversary.

I am still active helping my son, Harry, in the farming operation at 80 years of age.

Jim and Evelyn Warren and Family

Jim arrived in the Poplar Ridge district in November, 1944, with his father, John, his mother, Emily, and brother, Harry.

He attended school at Poplar Ridge for two years and then took Grade Nine in Red Deer, staying at the dormitory which was the old Legion building on 55th Street, and Gaetz Avenue. He then took three years of high school at the Red Deer Composite School which was the old barracks from the Army base.



Jim Jr., Jim Sr., Evelyn, Mark Warren.

Jim can still recall working the two summer months, raking and stacking hay and receiving the huge salary of five dollars. In the winter there were always the fun Sundays of neighbors and friends skiing and tobogganing down the bald hill and the hard, tiring climb back up to the top.

After completing Grade 12, Jim took one year of Education degree work at the University of Calgary, and then worked four years for the C. N. R. as a bridleman working between Hanna and Nordegg. He then returned, in 1955, to Canada Safeway and worked in Calgary and Red Deer. In 1957, he met and worked with Evelyn Schalk at Safeway and they were married in 1959. Evelyn's father, Harry, was the Assistant-Secretary of the School Division of the County of Red Deer for many years.

In 1961, a son, Jim, was born and in 1964, a second son, Mark.

In 1967, Jim started a new profession and career, becoming an assessor and appraiser with the Provincial Government. After living three years in Edmonton, they returned to Red Deer and have resided there since. Even though Jim has not resided in Poplar Ridge for many years, the family have still kept in touch with many old school chums, friends, and neighbors.

Jim and Evelyn are members of the Elks Lodge and Moose and, among many activities, the whole family thoroughly enjoys square dancing together.

Willis Clifford and Margaret Mabel Wentworth

Willis Clifford and Margeret Mabel Wentworth (nee Runnalls) came to this community in 1960, where they operated a dairy farm. Willis was born in Okotoks in 1922. He was in the air force serving as a rear gunner during World War II. His plane was shot down over Holland. The Dutch Underground hid him for some time before the Americans liberated that part of the country. He was then sent back to England where he was hospitalized before being returned to Canada.

Margaret was born in Edmonton in 1923. Willis and Margaret were married in Okotoks in 1945. They lived in Okotoks where Willis managed the Wentworth General Store for six years. He then operated the Wentworth meat and lockers. They then moved to Poplar Ridge where they lived for five years. After that time the farm was rented out and the Went-



Willis, Margaret, Joanne, Pat, Cliff, Jay, Arlene. Wentworth family.

worth's moved to Westlock, Alberta. The Wentworth's had two children: Clifford Douglas and Arleen Doris. Clifford was born in Calgary in 1947. Arleen was born in High River in 1949. Arleen married in 1971 and moved to St. Albert where she now resides with her two sons, Jeffry and Robert.

Clifford moved from here in 1965 and worked as a respiratory technician in the Municipal Hospital of Lethbridge, Alberta. In Lethbridge, he met his wife, Johanne Marie Sauerwein (nee Desjardins) and her two children, Darlyn Rose and Pat Andrew. Johanne was born in Ste. Rose du Lac, Manitoba in 1944 to Alexander and Delphine Desjardins. Cliff and Johanne were married in August of 1974.

They lived in Lethbridge till 1977 when they moved to the Wentworth farm. Clifford works as a school bus driver and piano tuner. He also serves as an elder in the Eckville congregation of Jehovah's Christian Witnesses. Much of the Wentworth's time is spent in preaching the Good News of God's Kingdom in Sylvan Lake. A large portion of the original Wentworth land has been sold and divided into acreages called Poplar Ridge Estates. The original farm house still stands on the old Home Farm SW ¼ 33-38-28-W4.

Clifford remembers there were a number of activities at the Community Centre when he lived here in the '60's.

William Fredrick Werner History

William Werner filed on homestead, SW ¼ 28-38-28-W4th, in 1901. A coloured man by the name of Harris was the original owner but after building a small log house and clearing three acres, he decided he didn't like the life and turned the land back to the government. Mr. Werner was able to take over the homestead after paying for the improvements. He came from Lone Pine, Nebraska, on an excursion train and worked his way up to Red Deer with different threshing crews. After filing on the homestead, he returned to Nebraska and worked for the winter. In May, 1902, he arrived back in Red Deer with three carloads of machinery and livestock. His wife, Annie Louise (nee Lee) and five children: Mabel, William, Laura, Gladys, and Roy followed in August. Alma was born in November, 1902, the first of the six children to be born in Poplar Ridge. James, Clarence, Annie, Mary, and Zelma completed the family of eleven. All born on the homestead and without the aid of medical assistance. They all lived in a big house which had been built in 1901.

Their only means of transportation was by horse and wagon.

Bill later bought the W ½ of 21-38-28-W4 from the C.P.R.



W. F. Werner, one of the trustees of Poplar Ridge School at its beginning.



Laura Linde, Anne Walker, Bill Werner, Alma Goodwin, Clarence Werner, Gladys Demas, Jim Werner, Mary Rumpf, 1947

Bill Werner owned the first threshing outfit, steam-powered, in the area. He also had a sawmill and sawed the lumber for the Poplar Ridge school barn built by Morrison Archibald. Bill was one of the first trustees of the school. He spoke seven languages and acted as an interpreter in the Court House in Red Deer.

Bill, along with sons, Bill and Roy, worked on the crew that built the old A.C.R. railroad. Gladys cooked for the crew. Laura, Roy, and Gladys cut cordwood and Bill hauled it into Red Deer for the steamers that supplied power for the town. He died in 1918, the first victim of the flu in the Red Deer area.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Whitehead by Arvid Whitehead

My parents came to Poplar Ridge from Victoria, Vancouver Island, in 1917. Originally, my mother came to Canada from Minnesota, U.S.A., and my father came from England in 1905. I remember very clearly coming to Red Deer as my Uncle Herman Veal came to the train to get us. There were my older brothers: Wilfred, born 1910, Clifford — 1913, myself — 1915, and my sister Margaret — 1917. My youngest brother, Lester, was born on November 9, 1919. Winter had come with a very bad blizzard and snow was three feet deep everywhere. My father was away working so mother's youngest son was born unassisted.



Herman Veal's house, 1918. Arvid Whitehead standing in the grass. Margaret in carriage.



Mike Maga's house in 1916. L. to R.: Arvid, Wilfred, Clifford Whitehead.

Mr. Veal came and got us in his 1917 McLaughlin car. It was a very nice touring car with side curtains. My lot was to sit on the floor, however, when someone said we were crossing over the bridge I jumped up and I had a very good peek at the bridge and river at Red Deer. The weather at that time was just pouring with rain. My uncle never made it home that night. We all stayed in the house which still stands on the northwest corner of the highway overpass at No. 2 and No. 11. Thanks to those good neighbors (Sorry, I forget their name.) I often wondered why he never made it home. Well, I guess the mud must have been pretty deep by the way it was raining.

My parents moved to the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ 9-39-28-W4, now owned by Mike Maga. There my dad worked for neighbor, Mr. Staples. He also fed cattle for Mr. G. W. Ball, who operated a meat market in Red Deer for a number of years.

When the war ended and the soldiers came home to Poplar Ridge they had a welcome home dance at our house. I remember quite well Mike Demas swinging the young girls and having a gay old time.

That winter the flu went through the district. Many people were quite ill. I remember a neighbor bringing a bottle of whiskey and putting it through the window as they were afraid of contacting it. My parents were both down with it at the same time, however, they recovered and us kids were happy again.

In 1919, Mr. Austin moved his steam engine from the saw mill that was on the farm now owned by Joe Lowis. There were lumber piles there for a number of years. The steam engine was left in our yard for

several days. This was exciting as my brothers and I had a lot of fun climbing on it.

My parents went to a funeral. Of course, I didn't know what it was but I remember standing among the women with long skirts, bustles and broad brimmed hats. I finally walked around through the crowd to see what was in the middle and I saw a large box with ATKINS printed on it. I couldn't read but I never forgot those letters. Years later, I was told that was the man my dad bought the farm from over in Shady Nook District.

By 1920, just before we moved to Shady Nook, my older brother took me to school one day. It was exciting but fearful as my brother was detained after school and everyone went home. My brother was sternly corrected with a strap. I felt it was because he had brought me to school as I was quite young. However, I have asked my brother why this happened but to this day he has refused to tell me. The fear of school lasted me a long time.

At times the struggle for existence seemed very hard for my parents but they worked very hard and with kind help of many neighbors we have all managed to survive. In 1920, we moved to Shady Nook. There my parents farmed and we all had our education there. My dad was the secretary-treasurer of the Shady Nook School District for several years. In 1931, my dad passed away suddenly with a heart attack at the age of 43.

Lester and I farmed with our mother for several years. She then sold the farm and moved to Red Deer. For many years our mother had ill health and passed away at the age of 83.

Lester farms at Innisfail and has four boys. Margaret lived in Vancouver and has two daughters and one boy. Clifford, has two boys and one girl. Wilfred has three boys and he farms at Onoway, Alberta.

In 1947, I married Louise Keast. We bought her parents farm in Valley Centre and we still reside there. Louise's parents are old timers in the district and their history is recorded in the book "Mingling Memories". We have two children and one grandchild. Our son, Arthur, and daughter, Patricia, are both married and live in Valley Centre.

I also operated a "Cat" for a number of years clearing land and construction work. This work and farming has been very interesting to me and I have always been busy. Arthur Severtson also of Poplar Ridge helped me with land clearing for eleven years and it was said of him, "He could tell a joke every day for ten years and not tell the same one twice!"

The dry thirties were something to remember. One could buy a good meal for 25 cents, a pair of blue jeans would be 95 cents. That's a big change from today's prices.

Wiley's History

In 1933, the N.W. $\frac{1}{4}$ of 33-38-28 W. of 4th was purchased from a Mr. Staples. The land was about $\frac{1}{3}$ cleared as a ridge ran east and west. Eventually $\frac{2}{3}$ was cleared and broken and put into crop. We wanted a suitable place to build a fur farm. Marvin had been in partnership with his two brothers in High River. One was moving to Edmonton and the elder one continued in High River on the original place, each continuing in fur farming.

Eventually fifty 50 foot pens were built here, a warehouse and a dwelling. Wells were dug and power and phone were installed as very little else was on the place. We continued in this business until 1947 as fur prices then had dropped very low and feed and labor were high so we had to sell the foxes.

About that time two quarters came up for sale, $\frac{1}{4}$



Lucille and Marvin Wiley out fishing in Arizona, 1957.



Marvin and Lucille Wiley.

mile away, of Mr. Emory Demas estate which we purchased. We built a large barn and planned to have a small dairy set up there. But it wasn't successful as the land was so run down that hay and grain didn't warrant it. We then had a large barn built on this place where we raised some milk cows, some beef cattle as well as a few pigs.

We have lived here ever since. Mr. Wiley passed away in January, 1979. He was born in Oregon, May 8, 1897. He attended Whitman College in Washington.

He was sent to Officer Training School in San Francisco where he became a lieutenant and served in the First World War. He returned to University following the war and got his degree. After graduation he taught school in Arizona, spent some time in Mexico, worked on the coast as a longshoreman and worked in oil fields in Wyoming before coming to Canada to become involved with his brothers in fur farming in High River.

I was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in 1903. My two brothers and I with my parents moved to Arizona to go into the mining business. I attended Teacher's College there and taught in Arizona and Wyoming. We were married in Wyoming in 1929.

The two quarters have been sold and the home place is rented out as grain farm.

We have taken part in all community affairs. I was an avid member of the Women's Institute.

Ralph V. Wilkins

by Kathleen (Wilkins) Lawrence

In 1912, my father, at the age of 24 years, came to Canada and the Red Deer area from London, England, where he had worked a number of years in an office. The change from the English life style in a city to the rural life style of Alberta in those years was one to which he never really adjusted.

For a while he drove a livery rig out of Red Deer then as a farm hand for James Spiers. He tried to enlist in 1915 but was "turned down because of varicose veins", a great disappointment as recorded in his diary. In August of 1915, he "asked Vera East a very important question" but it was not until several months later that he "received a favorable reply." On March 29, 1916, he and Vera were married. Their first home was on the Alfred Pointer place (NE $\frac{1}{4}$ 1-38-27) moving shortly after to SE 8-38-27-W4. As Mother recalls, the house had had cattle in it, the paper was falling off the walls, the firewood was wet but with dogged determination they eventually made the place liveable.

It was here that I was born in 1922, Mrs. Grace (Bower) McKinnon seeing me into the world. In 1923-24, when my grandfather, Thomas East, sold



Wilkins digging out.

his farm in the Poplar Ridge District (N ½ 12-39-28 W4). My parents bought it and we moved into the log house built by my grandfather by this time sporting several additions and completely sided, but without power or plumbing, which it never did have. The only approach to the farmstead was through a ravine in which an abundance of snow accumulated during the winter. With no power snow removal equipment, the only way of getting off the place was by digging a trail by hand.

Our only water supply was from a spring down a ravine east of the house. This was usually a bucket routine for washing, for laundry and all household needs. We did try a force pump to lift the water up to the house but it did not prove too successful.

A rickety wooden foot bridge separated the house from the barnyard and it was from this bridge that my mother once disciplined a big turkey gobbler who insisted on chasing me. Holding him by the neck, she swung him several times around her head then flung him wholesale into the ravine. The gobbler returned to the land of the living after several hours but whether he chased me again or not, I don't recall.

School began, for me, the fall of 1928. Being nearly four miles from school, the first winter I drove to school with my first teacher, Mr. Maurice Miller, who lived with his parents a short distance from our home.

It was in the late '20's or early '30's that my father purchased our first car, a Model T, complete with side curtains that even when properly fastened let in almost as much weather as they kept out. My father was a member of the local school board at the time and possibly the first trip he took in the car was to a board meeting at the school. Whether a teacher was



Ralph and Vera Wilkins on their wedding day.

being hired or fired, I don't remember, but it was nearly 5 a.m. when he arrived home and mother was nearly frantic with worry. Our one and only "long" trip was to Calgary to visit my aunt and uncle. The excitement and suspense that built up prior to departure was almost unbearable. "Would the car start? Would it keep running once it started? Would it take us all the way to Calgary?" It did, and the only problem we had was when it developed a very severe shimmy in the front wheels. My uncle, being rather mechanically inclined, had it all fixed for us before returning home.

In 1933, we moved from the old log house to the Jarvis place, one mile south. One event during the year that I always remember was the arrival of the threshing outfit in the fall. The farmers in the area would supply a team, rack and a man to go with the threshing machine and in this way help defray the expense of threshing. My father was usually the man, so Mother and I remained at home to do the chores and when threshing at our place, we had to prepare meals for the crew as well. In those days of no fertilizer and no weed sprays, I can still feel that sense of forboding when first reports of "how the crop was turning out" began to come from the field when threshing began. If the report was good and the yield was better than expected then one would breathe easier and the year ahead would appear rosier, but if the report was a poor yield and low quality then we

would grit our teeth, tighten our belts and hope to hang on for another year.

When the Alpha Condensery opened in Red Deer, we began shipping milk there. Although it meant milking 10-15 head of cows night and morning by hand, for we never did have power on the farm, it was a sure supply of ready cash on a regular basis.

One summer when Ben and Marie Trudel went on a holiday, I was hired at a fabulous \$1.00 a day to milk their 8-9 cows and take the milk to the Sylvan Lake Highway to be picked up by the milk truck. They planned to be away for 21 days but they were actually away 21½ days. I was overwhelmed with apprehension until I received the \$21.50. With it I bought my first winter coat for \$19.00 and had some money left. I felt as rich as a king and dressed like a queen.

In 1939, we bought our first tractor, a W-30 McCormick-Deering, a brute of a thing with steel wheels and no self-starter. It was certainly a set above the horses and the first year I did much of the spring work.

My parents were staunch supporters of the church and we attended, faithfully, the services held in the Poplar Ridge School with a minister of the Baptist Church in Red Deer conducting the services. For many years there was a Women's Missionary Society active in the District of which mother was a member.

After completing High School, I took war time teacher training and taught at Pine Lake, No. 2, for three years. In 1946, I married Chris J. Lawrence, acquired two step-children, Mary aged 11 and Bobby aged 8. Two and six years later we had two sons of our own, Arthur and Edward. All four children are married and we have eleven grandchildren. We still live at Pine Lake.

My parents sold their farm in the mid 40's and bought Archie Henderson's property on Michener Hill in Red Deer. In the early 70's they sold out and moved into one of the Twilight Cottages in Red Deer. In September of 1977, they moved to the Sylvan Lake Senior Citizen's Lodge. After several years of failing health, my father passed away on November 29, 1977, just four months short of his 90th birthday. Mother still enjoys good health and is with her sister, Kathleen, at the Senior Citizen's Lodge, Sylvan Lake.

William Woof

In 1900, my father, William Woof, left Yorkshire, England, and came to the U.S.A. He was born February 24, 1874, at Gill Ferbank, Yorkshire, to Richard and Alice (Nelson) Woof being one of a family of nine children. He worked on farms and in



Mr. Woof with his friends.

mines for about a year then in 1901 he came to Red Deer. There he worked on some stone buildings and basements that were being constructed around town at the time. As he had worked for others most of his life, he decided to start on his own. In 1902, he filed on a homestead about four miles south of Evarts.

Over the years that followed he worked in logging camps in winter and broke land in summer using his favorite mode of power — oxen. Sometimes he hooked them up at 2 or 3 o'clock in the morning to avoid the heat of the days and the flies which were terrible at that time.

In 1911, my mother, then Miss Eva Foster, came to Canada from Northern England to the Lacombe and Rocky Mountain House districts where she met my father and they were married in the Evarts church September, 1912.

Father had built a house on his homestead for this occasion; in which I, William Richard, was born in August, 1913, and my brother, Robert Foster, in November, 1918. In 1918, my grandmother, Mrs. Frances Foster, came out to Canada to stay with us but she returned the following spring to marry William Edmundson; after being a widow for many years.

In 1921 Father rented his land, had an auction sale and we moved to Kelowna for two years. While there my sister, Rooney Frances Alice, was born on September 26, 1922. When we returned in the summer of 1923, Father sold his homestead and bought the S.E. ¼ 28-38-28 W4 in the Poplar Ridge district from George Havens. This land originally belonged to Edward (Teddy) Edgington; a well known pioneer of the district. There was a man by the name of Shandy on the land before Havens but I don't know anything about him. He also bought the South half of 29-38-28 west of 4. It was school land and is now owned by Ross Harvey. My brother, Bob, and I bought N.E. ¼

17-38-28-W4 from Dave Hall, an old timer of the Shady Nook district. I also bought the N.E. ¼ 21-38-28 from Gerald Gilbert.

In 1945, I married Pauline Peck of Coaldale who had taught there and at Rose Glen for about ten years.

We have two boys: William G. born in February, 1948, is a truck sales manager at Festival Ford in Red Deer. He is married to the former Betty Lou Benz of Caroline and has one son, Robert. Bill attended the Poplar Ridge School for four years with Sam Davidson as teacher; then the River Glen school. Edmund Richard was born in June, 1951. He started school at River Glen. He married Simone Corriveau of Donnelly. They have one son, Raymond. They now live near Wabamun and Ed works for the County of Parkland as an assessor.

In 1959, I sold my land to my father and moved to Ohaton where we still reside. The boys finished their education at Bawlf, then Ed went two years to N.A.I.T. in Edmonton.

My mother helped in the district as a mid-wife. She belonged to the W.I. and the Mission Circle and



Eddie, Dick, Pauline, Billy Woof, 25th Wedding Anniversary, September, 1970.

Parent Teacher Association years ago. She passed away after a lengthy illness in the spring of 1951.

Bob took an active part in the community. He was always ready to help a friend in need. He loved

Poplar Ridge Brands

3 I Belich Bros.	S Y N. & D. Belich	-AD Ian Dudgeon	3E Robert S. Edgar	FH Fred Harvey
R I Ross Harvey				LR B. Raymer
ER Roy Prentice				LT H. Thompson
2J J. & J. Roth				LA Art Scott
-LM Louis Maga	R R. Bertram	Ov R. Bertram	MH M. Haslam	DW Wm. Woof



Back: Mr. Woof, Mr. Christian, Grandma Edmundson. Front: Mrs. Woof, Mrs. Christian.



Mrs. Woof, Rooney, Bob, Mr. Woof, Dick; spring of 1923.

horses and taught a favorite pony many tricks. He took music lessons from Mrs. Soderman and played the piano and violin. He died after a lengthy illness

on Christmas Day, 1951, at the age of 33, and was sadly missed by all the community.

After mother passed away, Grandma Edmundson kept house for Dad and Bob. She had returned to Red Deer in 1929 after the death of her husband. She had also kept house for Eugene Bayer and his daughter, Jacqueline, and for Fred Losse in the Crossroads district before coming back to our place. She passed away following a fall in April, 1953, in her 90th year.

Dad never drove a tractor on the farm until he was 80 years old. His previous experiences were with oxen and horses. He retired from active farming at the age of 89 and moved to Red Deer in 1967 after having an auction sale. In town he did his own housekeeping until he passed away in September, 1969, at the age of 95.

Thoughts of a Young Farmer

by Willie Huss

Chores

In the early morning stretches
When a fellers outa sleep
When it lacks an hour or better
Till the dawn begins to peep
Dad will start the kitchen fire
And slam the oven doors
And yell right up the stairway
"Will, get up and do the chores."

It's only been an hour or so
At least that's how it seems
Since I was doing chores
And now he's bustin up my dreams
To hollerin, to waken me
And slamming of the doors
It's morning, Will, and time that you
Was doing up the chores.

Bring up the mules and feed the pigs
And give the steers some hay
Then milk the cows and feed the calves
And put the milk away
Now shake a leg, roll out of bed
It's morning out of doors
And bring the lantern when you come
A doing up the chores

The later I stay out at night
The earlier he will call
It's mighty nigh impossible
For me to sleep at all
When I go farming on my own
I'll catch up on my snores
For I won't keep a cussed thing
That calls for doing chores

Foot note:

Forty years later, I am still doing chores.



World War I



William T. Smith.



Bob Doig (in uniform).



Joseph Mons.

Poplar Ridge Service men and women

— no pictures

World War I

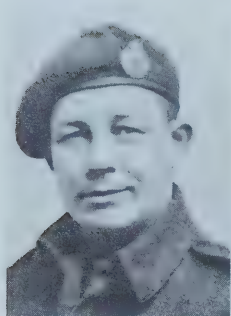
William Hunt
Hugh Kirkland
Donald MacDonnell
John McDonald

World War II

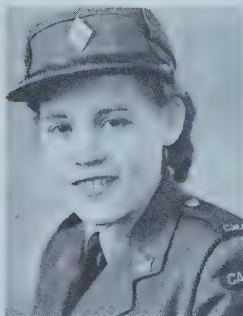
Donald Berry
Arthur Hannett
Hazel Hannett
Arnold Kimball
Frank Mitchell
Enid Mitchell
Willis Wentworth

and there may be others

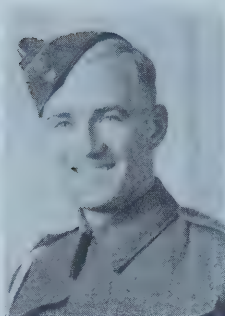
World War II



J. B. Moore, R.C.E.



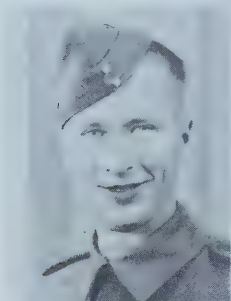
Pvt. Verna E. Tooley, C.W.A.C.



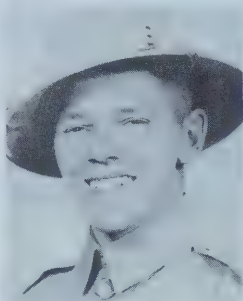
Joe Lewis, 6th L.A.A. Regt.



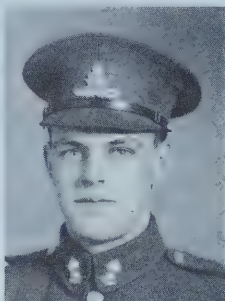
Sgt. Sheila (Lemon) Percival and Pvt. Gwen King, African Army and Air Force.



Archie McBlane. Served in England and north-west Europe.



Jim Newnham.



Sgt. W. A. Gaetz, R.C.A.



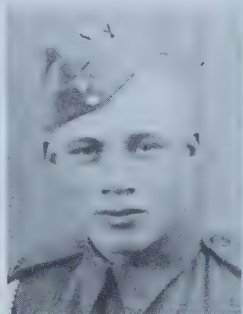
Robert DePauw



Cpl. Jack Tooley. World War I and World War II, R.C.E.M.E.



Tom Cunningham.



Richard N. Tooley, Bombardier, R.C.A.



Sgt. Jean E. Tooley, C.W.A.C.



Glen Theakston. Killed in action.



Irma Miller.



Angus and Norman McLeod.



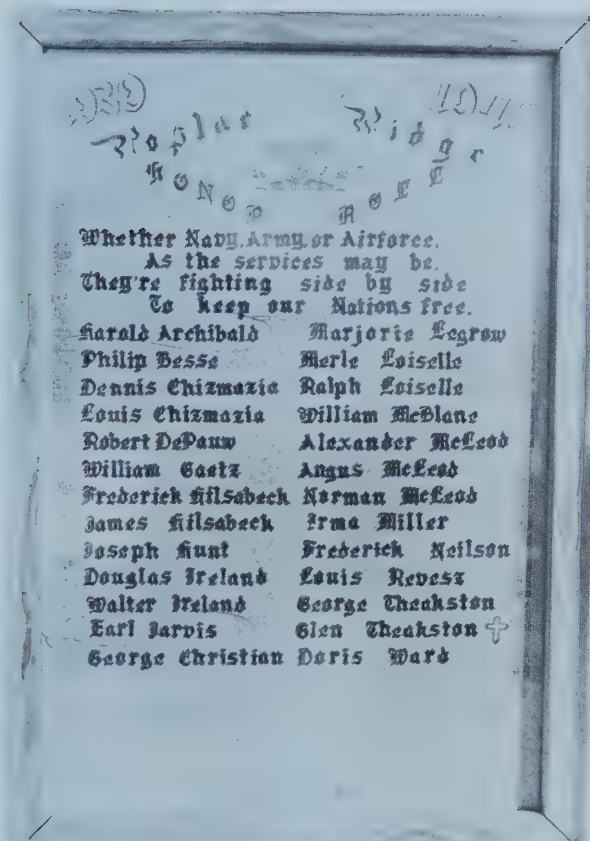
William McBlane, Calgary Highlanders.



Doris Ward.



Tom Percival, Canadian Air Force.



Poplar Ridge Roll of Honor.



Denis Chizmazi, Jr., 1941, Calgary Tanks.



Harold Archibald.



Harold and Jim Brackney.



Grace Kimball (Pearson), Army Medical Corps, World War II.

Community Bees



Bee at Woofs. Back row, L. to R.: Regina Schritt, Mrs. Daisy Harvey, Dorothy Johansen, Lucille Wiley. Front row: Dora Stewart, Mrs. Edmundson, Emily Warren.



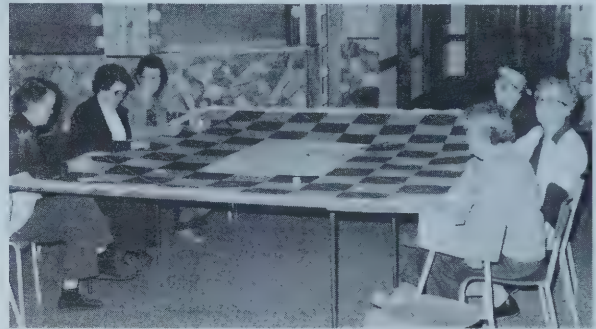
Work Bee for Mr. Woof, May 23, 1951. Back row, L. to R.: Mr. Woof, Lloyd Warren, Bob Stewart, Mr. Harvey, Jim Stewart. Second row: Frank Mitchell, Mr. Wiley, Joe Lewis, Hal Thompson, Jack Moore, Bill Maga, Billy Woof, Dick and Mr. Tinner. Front row: Bill Smith, George Roth, Mr. Warren, Raymond Hannicart, Harry, Mr. Warren, Bill McBlane.



Otto Tettolowski Bee, May, 1948. Otto Tettolowski, Mike Maga, ?, Tony Swanson, Lloyd Herman, Bill Maga, Archie Carlyle, Ralph Schmidt, Floyd Van Slyke, Ben Reiswig, Ray Schmidt, ?, Sam Bahler, Jack Tinner, Pete Ammeter, Phillip Schmidt, W. T. Smith.



Servers at Smith Bee, 1950. Back row, L. to R.: Mrs. Ammeter, Mrs. Neilson, Mrs. Wiley. Seated: Shiela Percival, Donald, John, Flora Van Slyke, Agnes Neilson, Keith, Germaine Maga, Mrs. Stewart.



Quilting Bee. Grace Maga, Mary Krogman, Germaine Maga, Sheila Percival, Freda Bertram, Dode Lewis.

Sunday School in Poplar Ridge



Intermediate Sunday School Class, Poplar Ridge, 1925. Teacher — Ethel Staples. Back row, L. to R.: Gordon McBlane, Noel Langley, Russel Creeman, George Langley, George Christian, Dick Woof. Front row, L. to R.: Agnes Forest, Isabelle McBlane, Evelyn Hart, Edna Christian, Joan Finch, Lucille Murphy.



Picture taken by Reg Neal, probably July 1, 1920. Poplar Ridge Sunday School picnic. Back row, L. to R. Hugh Havens, John Burns, Maisie Burns, Doris Hart, Helen Veal, ?, Ester Staples, Lavina Hart, Hilda Hart, Fanny Burns, Edith Hart. Centre row: Bill Anderson, Wallace Hart, Evelyn Hart, Beatrice Veal, Harry Hart, Bob Burns, ?, George Christian, Raymond Havens. Front row: Velma Veal, Edna Christian, Alta Veal, Andy Burns.



Picnic at Sylvan Lake, June 30, 1941. Mrs. Fred Neilson, Mrs. Andrew Neilson, Mrs. M. Wiley, Mrs. E. Finch, Fred Neilson, Helen Neilson (teacher), E. Finch, Marack McEacheran, M. Wiley, Wm. Smith, Ralph Wilkins, Mrs. Ralph Wilkins.

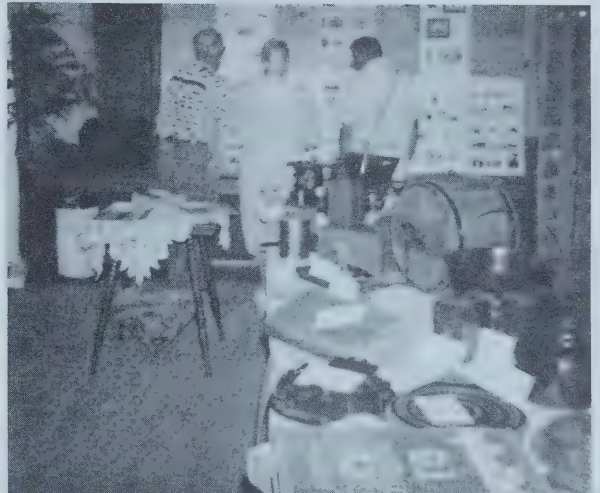
Centennial Celebrations



Centennial, 1967. Dode Lewis, Phyllis Crumback.



Centennial Display, 1967.



Antique Display, 1967. Items displayed by Dode Lewis and Ruth Stewart.



Antique Display, Centennial, 1967. Myrtle Gehrke in foreground.



Don and Jim Jensen pose in front of some of their antique display at Centennial.



Al Stephensen, Mary Krogman and Bob Stewart cutting and serving at the barbecue, July 1, 1980.

Poplar Ridge Homecoming 1980



Two Honored Guests at Poplar Ridge Homecoming cutting the cake were Margaret Soley and Walter Hart.



Germaine Maga presenting W. T. Smith a plaque for being the oldest citizen at the Homecoming, 1980. He was 90 years young.



Anniversary Quilt raffled and made by (L-R) Grace Maga, Germaine Maga, Mary Krogman, Dode Lowis, Nita Maga, Sheila Percival, Connie Haslam, Lucille Wiley. Quilt won by Alma Edgar. Missing from picture Freda Bertram.



Hal Thompson presenting 75th Alberta Anniversary Plaques to former teachers of Poplar Ridge. L. to R.: Helen Farewell (Neilson), Mabel Nash, Agnes Anderson, Dora Johansen (Bjelke).



Hal Thompson and former teacher Audrey Braithwaite (Schaefer).



Former students of Poplar Ridge.



Line-Up for Supper, 75th Anniversary, July 1, 1980.



75th Anniversary of Alberta Homecoming. Carol (Bertram) Cunningham, Ruth (Johansen) Stewart, Louis Maga, Kathy (Sparks) Brecka, Barbara (Bertram) Sephton, David Sparks, Beth (Thompson) Boyce, Martha (Maga) Bourne, John Percival, Gail (Robinson) Evans, Inez Hannett, Soren Hansen, Grace (Johansen) Dueck, Vera (Robinson) Mottus, Rhonda Lewis, Charlotte (Davidson) Murray, Jean (Thompson) Roth, John Davidson.

The Store



Lydia Reeves. These pumps were hand operated in the 1940's.



First service station on the Sylvan Lake Trail owned by Mr. and Mrs. Mike Reevesz, 1945.



The new Mid-Way Store and Service Station built in 1953, owned by the Johansen family.



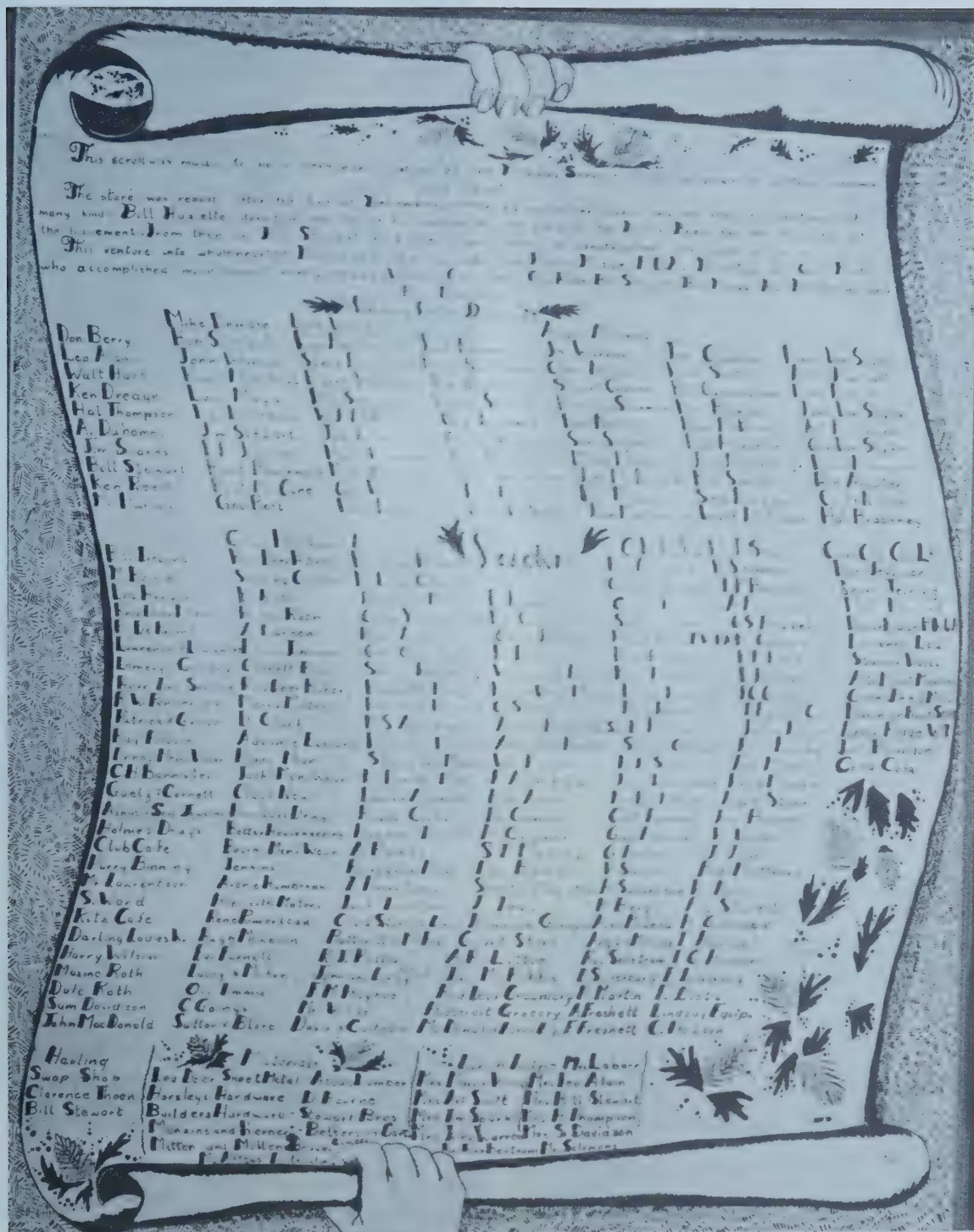
Ruins of Midway Fire, December 11, 1952.



Building Bee at Mid-Way Service Station, Winter, 1953.



L. to R.: John Johansen, Dorian Bertram and Grace Johansen posing in front of stuffed cougar. This cougar was shot by Spencer Horton and weighed 158 pounds. It was one of a number of animals and birds displayed at the Mid-Way Service Station for many years.



Hand drawn scroll of volunteers who helped to rebuild Mid-Way Service, by Dorothy Johansen.

Hobbies and Artifacts



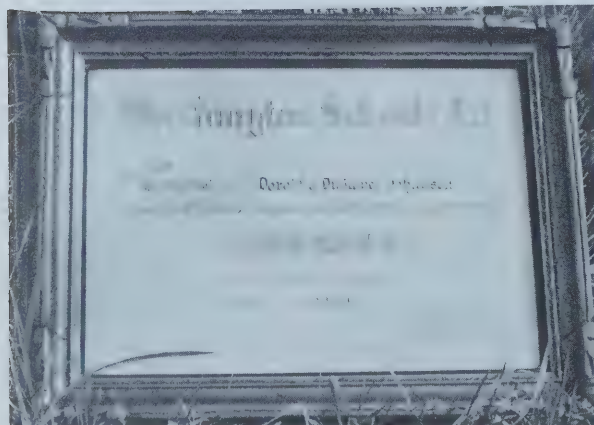
Dode Lowis' bell collection.



Dode Lowis making corn dollies, 1975.



Freda Bertram's doll collection. Baby is Darleen's Jacqueline at 2½ months.



Dorothy Johansen's art diploma.



Indian artifacts displayed by Dode Lowis.



Indian artifacts found by Joe Lewis.

Blizzard Fails to Halt Dog Team

An interesting story of the big blizzard is told of a former resident of the district, twelve-year-old Donald MacGillivray, now of the Midway Service Station on the Sylvan Lake road. He hitched up his dog, Sandy, to the toboggan, and rode 7 miles to the North Hill Grocery for provisions, making the trip in an



March blizzard, 1951.

hour and five minutes. The next day, Sunday, he made the return trip with the groceries, in an hour ten minutes. Donald says the trip was a lot of fun and gave Sandy a good appetite.

Memories



Mrs. Doig's home. A close up.



Roy Archibald house being moved, early 1920's.



Poplar Ridge Ball Club, 1944-45 or 1946.



The old Poplar Ridge hall stood where the new home is, across the Sylvan Lake highway. Aerial view of Evan Robinson farm.



Clouds of smoke from the many fires in the district.



The banks of snow after the March blizzard, 1951.



Grading the pelts. Bill Smith, Alfred Jones, Marvin Wiley, Ernie Pulver on Marvin Wiley's fur farm.



Wedding Shower at Poplar Ridge for Betty Johansen, 1965. Ray Bertram, Evan Robinson and Fred Plum putting on nylons and wearing oven mitts — blindfolded.



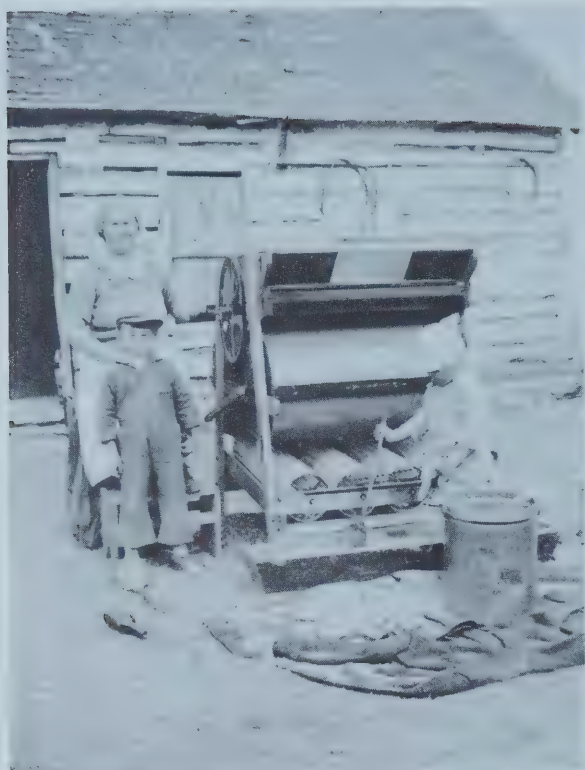
Bill Gennow, Levi Miller, Clifford Gennow digging potatoes about 1920.



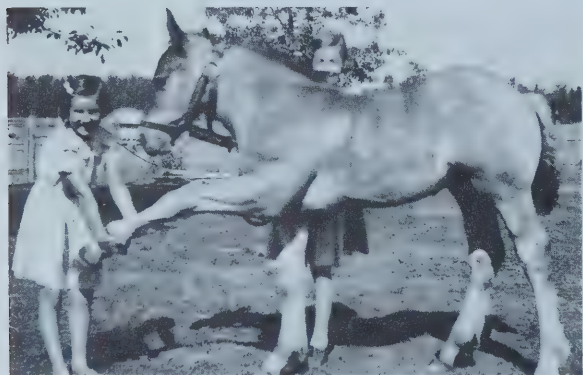
Butchering the pig. Mr. Miller and Harry Christie on the right. Miller girls looking on. About 1926.



Ruthy Johansen's boy's haircut, 1955.



Mrs. Malinic, John and Mary cleaning grain.



Margaret and Joan Harvey and friend.



Whitcher farmstead. The gang's waiting for lunch.



Betty, Mary and Ruth Johansen with Mr. J. D. MacGillivray on his 100th birthday.



Dennis, Gerald, Gail and Vera Robinson.



Mr. and Mrs. Chris Petersen down in the Blindman, 1926.



After snowstorm, April 25, 1948.



Jack Peck, Lois McBlane, Bob Woof, Rooney Woof, Albert Peck.

Farming Through The Years



Stewarts' log pile on Woof place.



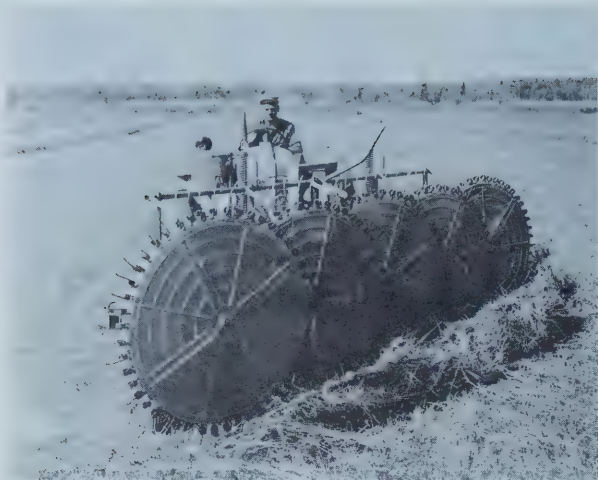
Amel Hillman sawmill working on Woof place for the Stewarts, 1961.



Stewart lumber pile on Woof place.



Cutting hay with horse mower. John Buga on mower.



Willie Tettolowski, hired man, 1954. Racking hay at Dick Woolf's.



Thompsons stacking hay with overshot stacker.



Digging basement for new home, 1954. Laura and Wendy. Old house and barn in background. Van Slyke farm.



Brush cutting on the Demas farm, 1929.



Dunc McBlane breaking land in the southwest corner of NE 27-38-28 W4, about 1920-23.



Breaking land on the McGovern farm.



"Will" Christian with his seven horses hitched to three-bottom plow.



Jessie and Archie McBlane, 1926.



Mr. Whaley and son Charles seeding with their first tractor.



"Will" Christian with binder. Mother looking on.



Carl E. Larson and Soren Hansen harvesting, Summer, 1957.



Fred Straub's dad swathing with converted binder, 1954.



Titan tractor. Betty Demas in front of wheel.



Threshing with old Titan tractor, 1940.



Mike Demas threshing in 1940.



Threshing on the Peterson farm.



Mrs. Malinic, John and Annie cultivating the garden.



Combine owned by Bill and Mike Maga. First combine that came to Poplar Ridge district, 1939.



Olds Agricultural College supplied four pounds of seed potatoes which produced these seven bags of potatoes. Olds also supplied the wheat seed for these stooks.



Lloyd Prentice in stand of oats, 1941. He stood 6ft. 2in.



Bill McBlane on 18-36 Hart Parr, in the garden, September, 1950.



Mr. Miller with front team; Harold Rogers with back team, hauling wood to Red Deer. 1923.



Prentices sawing wood. Mill was constructed by Lloyd Prentice and was some 30 years in use.



Spring cultivating on Stewart farm, Bob Stewart, 1979.



Bill Maga splitting wood, 1939.



Wood pile waiting for saw at Hal Thompson's.

10 RLO

LAND TITLES OFFICE for the NORTH ALBERTA LAND REGISTRATION DISTRICT

Re N.W. 1/4 Sec 22-38-28-W 4th Mer. Excepting all Mines Minerals

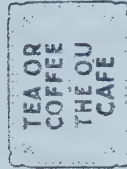
I Herely Certify that on this *31st* day of *January* A.D. 191*6*, at *ten 30⁰⁰* o'clock *a*.m., Certificate of Title

Number *26 D* *31 Jan 1916* stood in the name of *Alexander McBlane the Younger*

for the above land subject to the following registered instruments only.

Red Deer Alta

Number of Instrument	Nature of Instrument	Date of Instrument	Date of Registry	GRANTOR, ETC.	GRANTEE, ETC.	Quantity of Land	Consideration
<i>788 B.5</i>	<i>Mtgc</i>	<i>29 Jan 1916</i>	<i>31 Jan 1916</i>	<i>Alexander McBlane Jr</i>	<i>John Hall Rich</i>	<i>160 acres</i>	<i>\$2290⁰⁰-8%</i>
<i>Handwritten signature</i> <i>Registrar</i> <i>North Alberta Land Registration District.</i>							



RB-76 RATION CARD (For Temporary Rations)
CARTE DE RATIONNEMENT (Pour Rations Temporaires)

Name *Dorochea Stewart*
Nom
Address *R.R. 1, Red Deer*
Adresse
Number of people served by card *1* **Nombre de personnes servis par cette carte**

Period covered *120 Freshing Heats* **Période pour laquelle émise**
From *4* To *4*
De
Regimental No. *No Matricule*

No. of Coupons Issued Nombre de coupons émis	Category Catégorie
Sugar—Sucre <i>3</i>	☐ Armed Forces Forces Armées
Tea/Coffee Thé/Café <i>4</i>	☐ Visitor Touriste
Butter—Beurre <i>6</i>	☒ Transient Labour Ouvrier Temporaire
Meat—Viande <i>12</i>	☐ Other Autre
<i>Jam 3</i>	

Issued by *E. R. Red Deer*
Branch or L.R.B. No.
Emise par
Succursale ou C.L.R. No.
Date *Oct 14/43*
Per
Par

GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTH-WEST TERRITORIES OF CANADA
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF THE RECORDER OF BRANDS
REGINA, N.W.T.

Extracts from Record of Brands, *File No. 8670*

Recorded for *Cattle*
Position on Animal *Left hip*
Recorded Ventr (if any)
Name of Owner *Wm Ritch*
Post Office Address *Red Deer, Alta*
Date of Record *4th June, 1903*

I, the undersigned, Recorder of Brands, hereby certify that the above is a true and correct extract from the Record of Brands kept under the authority of The Brand Ordinance, as it appeared on the *fourth* day of *June* A.D. 1903.
John W. Ritch

GOVERNMENT OF THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

RECEIPT FOR TAXES **B No 13131**

Received from *Wm Ritch Red Deer*
of the sum of *Twelve-12* DOLLARS
being amount due LOCAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT No. *1925* for taxes for the year *1907-8* on the following lands:
4 H. 22-38-28-4
Cook 1/20
DATED at EDMONTON this *7* day of *Feb* A.D. 19*08*
Countersigned *A. E. G. G. G.* CASHIER *John W. Ritch* DEPUTY MINISTER

\$ 109.50
Int. 4/10
113.95
Red Deer, Alta. Oct 3, 1912
Six months after **PAID** *promise to pay to*
Wm R. Ritch *or order*
for hundred and *25 dollars*
with interest at the rate of 8 per cent annum, as well as
as before maturity, at The Canadian Bank of Commerce,
here. Value received. *John H. Ritch*
No. 1011 *E. Gilbert*

RATION BOOK 1



CARNET DE RATIONNEMENT 1

Serial Number *CY 322592* No de série

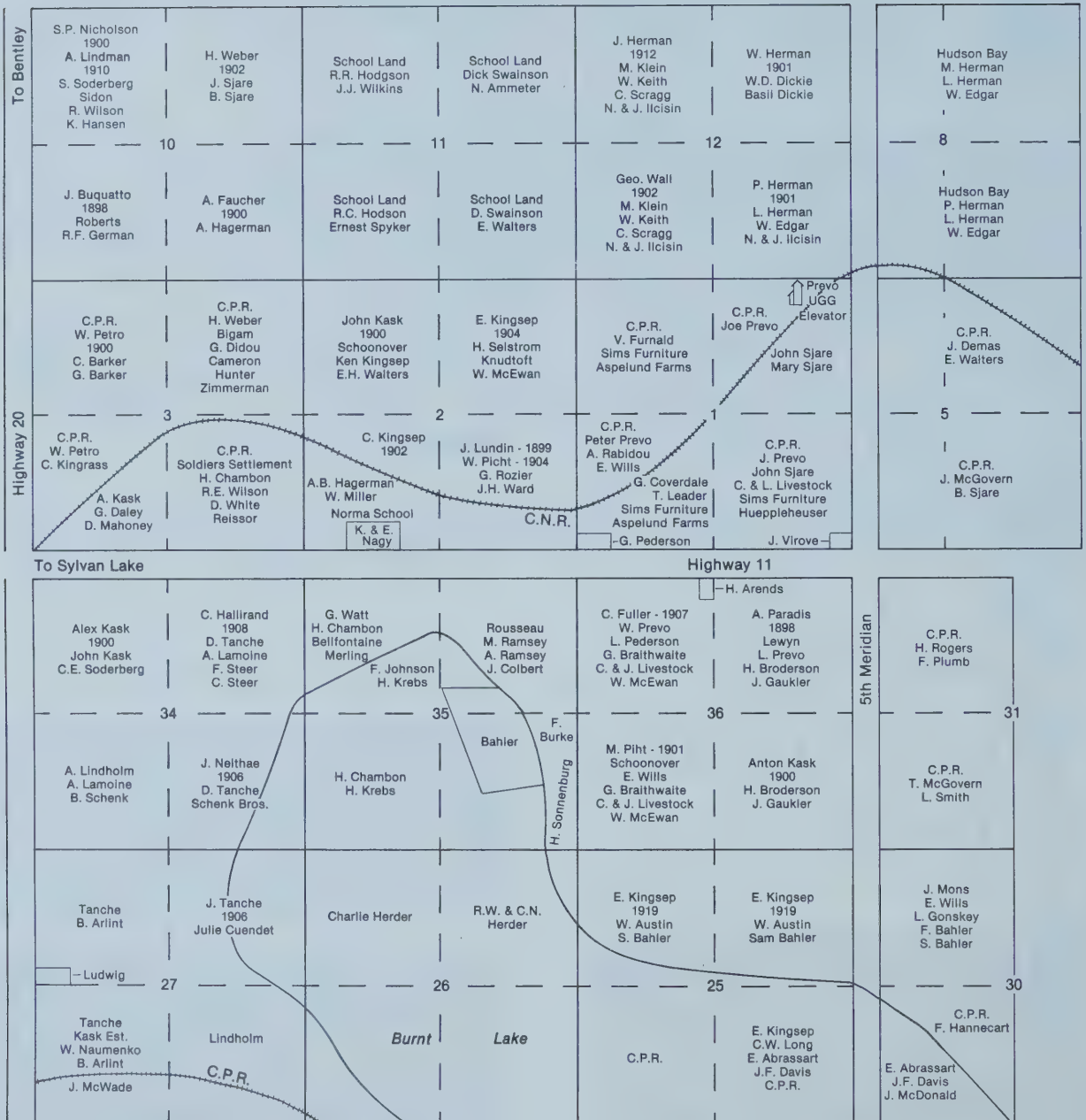
DOMINION OF CANADA

Name *Stewart Robert H.*
Nom
Address *RR 1, Red Deer, Alta.*
Adresse
Age if under 16 *16* Age, si au-dessous de 16 ans

ISSUED BY THE WARTIME PRICES AND TRADE BOARD
ÉMIS PAR LA COMMISSION DES PRIX ET DU COMMERCE EN TEMPS DE GUERRE

Name <i>Stewart Robert H.</i>	SPARE "D" <i>4</i>
Address <i>Red Deer, Alta.</i>	SUPPLÉMENTAIRE "D"
SPARE "D" <i>13</i>	SPARE "D" <i>10</i>
SPARE "D" <i>7</i>	SPARE "D" <i>3</i>
SPARE "D" <i>12</i>	SPARE "D" <i>9</i>
SPARE "D" <i>6</i>	SPARE "D" <i>2</i>
SPARE "D" <i>11</i>	SPARE "D" <i>8</i>
SPARE "D" <i>5</i>	SPARE "D" <i>1</i>

NORMA SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 885



Norma

Norma Brands

Cap Steer — R.R.

S
W

Henry Krebs — L.R.

KH

Joe Gaukler — L.H.

JOE

Adelard Faucher

AF

John Lindman — R.S.

JL

Axel Lindman — L.H.

AL

Robert (Bob) Herder — L.R.

ZH

Jack McWade

WM

Sam Bahler — R.R.

ST

Vera Gaukler — R.H.

V

Dale Stafford — L.R.

DWS



Prevo Elevator house, 1950, Sue Park, Judy and Lavern playing on the swing.



The county snow plow opening the road to the Prevo Elevator, April, 1951.

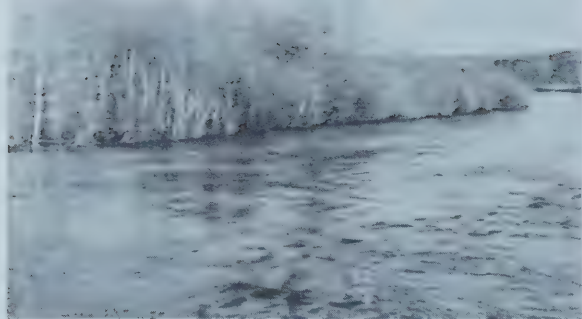


Mr. and Mrs. Peter Prevo by their home on the same section where the Prevo Elevator was built. Also the George Coverdale home, and now Gunnar Pedersen Home. Children on photo are Rabidou children.

Prevo

The U.G.G. grain elevator that stood on a siding three miles east and one mile north of Sylvan Lake for many years was named after an early settler, Mr. Prevo, of the Norma School District.

Some of the agents here were Mr. and Mrs. Sid



The Blindman River on the Ironside Flat, the Spring Flood after the big spring snow in 1951.

Wardell, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Park, Mr. and Mrs. Glen Thompson, and Mr. and Mrs. Woody Ponder.

In the early years grain came from long distances by team and wagon or sleigh. Each agent came as a stranger to the community, but due to the warmth and friendliness with which they were received, left with life-long friends. Until about 1970 the population was quite static, after which smaller farmers sold to larger farmers, and urban families began buying acreages where possible. The district was very active with local ball teams, hockey teams, country dances, and summer picnics; and any “new-comer” was soon part of all that went on.

Each district has its characters — and Prevo had its share. Some of the impressions as related by Jim Park mentions a few of these:

After being in the district for two or three months I had to take a message to the Carlyle Bros. It was almost twelve midnight, but no men were to be found. One of their wives said they were around somewhere. As I headed for the barn I heard a commotion in the bush near the Blind Man River. On approaching I could see a lantern bobbing; as I walked toward it a fellow, later known as Bob, peered at me from under his cap. I learned they were getting ready to start threshing and were hunting for their hayracks. Soon the second brother, Archie, came crashing through the brush in a pair of bib overalls buttoned with nails, an old straw hat, and — bare feet! He was looking for the horses.

Another pair, Finley Kelso and Ed Lofgren would sit in their car in the elevator parking lot laughing by the hour at each others jokes. I remember thinking that this must be some district, but time proved me wrong.

When winter came there were a few whose horses, for some reason, had trouble pulling the load up the partly bare approach into the elevator. One day John MacDonald’s team, when nearly up, swung sideways upsetting the load over the grade into the snow. All John said was “Isn’t that a mess!”. We were well warmed by the time that load was in the elevator. Bill Smith, fearing the same fate, would start his team on the run long before he reached the approach and, with reins dangling, would succeed in just making the approach. Sometimes he wasn’t so lucky and I’d have to ease him on with a pinch bar. If I’d see Bill coming I would hurry to shovel snow on the approach before he got there.

The first time I met Mr. and Mrs. Ironside Sr., Mr. Ironside was driving his 1948 model car (quite new) in over our ungravelled road after a heavy rain. The crooked ruts were about eight inches deep but he came full speed ahead. Mrs. Ironside however, refused to risk it and walked, well dressed as she always was, all the way (about half a mile) in the clay mud.

There was Basil Dickey, whom everyone knew. He was different, but after a few months we grew quite fond of him.

This was only my second year as a grain buyer, so each one I met was a prospective customer. I must admit I did have some reservations — but soon learned that one should never go by first impressions.

Prevo was a 60,000 bushel elevator, but about 125,000 would be handled in a season, so it was a busy place. At one time there was a loading platform and stockyards at the site as well. Coal from Drumheller, hay from Brooks, and posts from Golden, B.C. were sold from the railway car. When products arrived people were notified by phone and in two days the car was empty and ready to go. One very wet spring, 1948, the Carlyle Bros, drove a car load of cattle by horses to Prevo and loaded them there, as no trucks could get through. The section men, working for Elspeth to Chris Peterson’s farm, often stopped at the Prevo station — a 12 by 20 foot frame building.

After 1945 two-ton trucks began hauling grain during the summer months. Art Schott, Henry Hussfeldt, and Dick Swainson were the main truckers. The scales could not weigh over a two-ton truck, so it was just a matter of time until it was closed. It was torn down and the salvaged lumber was used in the U.G.G. elevator being built in Bentley, spelling the end of a pioneer land mark.

Norma School No. 885 by Daleys

The first school called Finland School was located on NW 2-39-1-W5th. The district was estab-

lished August 29, 1903. At this time there were twenty-one school age children.

The school was built here rather than on school land because it was more centrally located. The land was previously Crown land. The men of the district erected a log building. The Northwest Territories Gazette of December 7, 1904 records permission granted to borrow \$700.00 for purpose of paying for the school house, furniture, school site and teacherage.

The school opened in May, 1904 and closed again in September as it was too cold for use in the winter months.

The first teacher was Mr. George H. Glover, who also held church services.

The name of the school was changed to Sylvan Lake School in 1909, the name Norma was adopted in 1915.

At one time the original school caught fire. The blaze was extinguished by the students. For four months of the year there was one hundred percent attendance.

The second school building was erected in 1929. This was a frame structure.

The original school house was demolished because it was uninhabitable. This occurred approximately 1930.

The second school was closed in 1956. The sixteen students from the area were bussed to Sylvan Lake and to Red Deer. The building was sold in 1959. It is presently a family home.

The district became part of the Red Deer School Division No. 35 by ministerial order dated September 28, 1938.

The Red Deer Division became the County of Red Deer No. 23 on January 1, 1963.

Teachers:

1904-1906 — George Hall Glover
1906-1907 — Gilbert Storey
1907-1908 — Miss Fulmer, Miss Lewis
1908-1909 — Mr. Richards and Mr. Eagle
1909-1910 — Miss Adelaide McLaughlin
1910-1911 — Miss Laura E. Simons
1911-1912 — Gilbert Patterson
1912-1912, 2 months — Lizzie Martin (Mrs. Bill Leay)
1914 — Mr. Waldo Huestice
1915-1916 — Mrs. Connie (Orlie) Austin
1916-1923 — Mrs. Margaret Schoonover
1923-1924 — Miss Marie Watson (Mrs. Ralph Hoover)
1924-1925 — Miss McDonald
1925-1926 — Miss McLeod
1926-1927 — Mr. Zumwalt
1927-1928 — unknown

1928-1930 — Miss Louise Kenny (Mrs. Bercht — Innisfail).

1930-1936 — Miss Elizabeth Kask (Mrs. Hughes)

1936-1939 — Miss Mary Sjare (Mrs. Ritchie)

1939-1941 — Miss Lil Byers (Mrs. Duffield)

1941-1942 — Miss Phyllis Benyon

1942-1943 — Miss Alma Roughhead

1943-1944 — Mrs. Susan E. Park

1944-1945 — Dorothy I. Thurston — Oct. — Susan Park

1945-1946 — Mrs. Ena Huss

1946-1948 — Mrs. Elizabeth D. Gibson

1948-1949 — Mr. Doral Hemm

1949-1953 — Mrs. N. Christine Lees (Mrs. Rathwell)

1953-1955 — Miss Juliana Dallaire (Schaffer)

1955-1956 — Mrs. Edith Flater.



Louise Kenny — Norma teacher with tiger lillies on Norma School Section in 1930. Miss Kenny was the last teacher in old school and the first in the new.



Finland School (Norma) 1904. Back row L. to R.: Pauline Nittle, Minnie Walt, Sophie Wartnow, Lily Kingsep, Bertha Weber, Henry Weber, Hattie Faucher, John Wartnow, Will Austin, Lulu Faucher, Orlie Austin. Rear: George Hall Glover teacher with hat, Arthur Faucher on horse. Front row: Julia Kask, Nina Faucher, Stella Weber, Martin Nittle, Ken Kingsep, Elmer Faucher and Pelo the dog.



Bertha Weber, George Glover and Henry Weber. George was the first Norma School teacher in 1904. He lived in this tent on the Weber farm.



Orlie and Connie (Wilson) Austin. She taught at the Norma School 1915-1916.



Norma School, taken in 1912. Back standing L. to R.: Nina Faucher, Salma Herman, Gilbert Patterson (teacher), Stella Weber, Rose Petro. Back row kneeling: Lembit Herman, John Tanche, Walter Radidou, Elmer Faucher. Front row kneeling: Lyla Maxwell, Ella Herman, Lydia Herman. Front seated: Germaine Lamoine, Jeanie Walters, Hilda Herman, Naima Herman, Lawrence Prentice, Pearl Rabidou and Ada Faucher.



Norma School Pupils, spring 1924: Magda, Hertha, Paul, Lloyd and Carl Herman; Margaret, Earle and Lester Schoonover; Madeline and Raymond Crocket; John Kask and John and Nellie McGovern. Teacher Marie Watson (Mrs. Ralph Hoover).



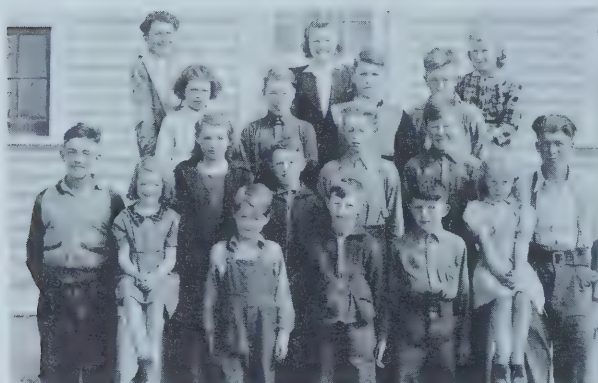
The Hay Ride — L. to R.: Bernard Sjare, Lillian Kenny, Louise Kenny, Mary Sjare and Elmer Sjare.



Mrs. Christine Lees and class, 1951.



"Wedding of the Painted Doll" — a play put on by Miss Kenny at Norma School in 1930-31. George and Gwen Daley.



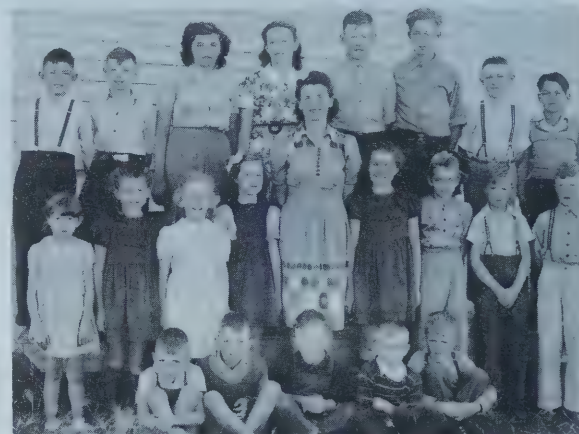
Norma School Pupils — 1942-1943. Doreen Daley, Shirley Barker (sitting back row), Teacher Mrs. Roughhead. Back row: Irene Abrassart, Lute Austin, Ke Wells, Frank Barker. Second row: Mike Gonsky, Olga Gonsky, Tim Daley, Allan Ramsey, Gordon Barker, Chester Soderberg. Front sitting: Lucille Abrassart, Ken McLeod, Jack Ramsey, Bob Kingsep, and Joyce Barker sitting.



Norma School 1930-31 first year at this school. Miss Kenny and her class.



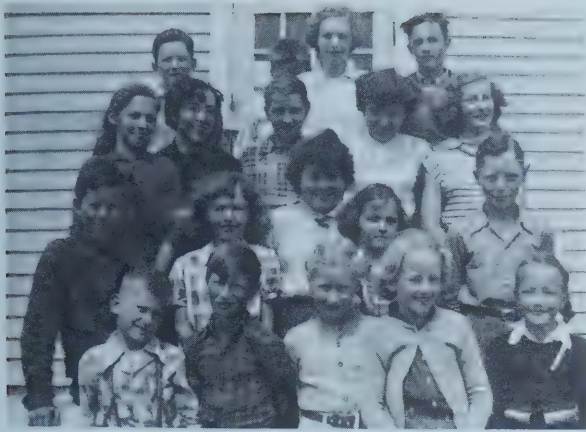
Norma School — Class of 1946. L. to R. back row: Marg Roberts, Tim Daley, Olga Gonsky, Gordon Barker, Alice Hollingstead, Clare Wagn, teacher — Mrs. Gibson, Heather Hodgson, Lucille Abrassart, Bob Kingsep, Keith Heikkinen, Vera Clarkson, Tom Barker, Jim Furnal, Jim Kingsep, Bill Gonsky, John Sjare, Renee Wagn, Verda Clarkson, Bev Roberts, Joyce Barker, Gene Austin, and Ron Kingsep.



1945 — Bobby Kingsep, Jack Ramsey, Olga Gonsky, Agnes Coverdale, Gordon Barker, Allan Ramsey, Tim Daley, Keith Heikkinen, Carol Kingsep, Beverly Roberts, Joyce Barker, Heather Hodgson, Sue Park (teacher), Marjorie Hodgson, Lucille Abrassart, Gene Austin, Tommy Barker, Ronnie Kingsep, Jimmy Kingsep, John Sjare, Billie Gonsky and Ralph Wells.



Norma School in 1964 after being remodeled by Mollie and Bill Scott — the new owners.



Norma School Picture — June 1953. L. to R. back: John Sjare, Roger Thompson, Sarah Johnson, Ron Kingsep. Row two: Lorraine Johnson, Miss Juliana Dallaire, Carol Kingsep, Rosalie Gaukler, Dolores Ward. Row three: Robert Thompson, Sharon Johnson, Janet Gaukler, Gail Kingsep, Doug Keith. Front: Sammy Bahler, Peter Ward, Merle Barker, Rosalie Plumb and Peggy Keith.

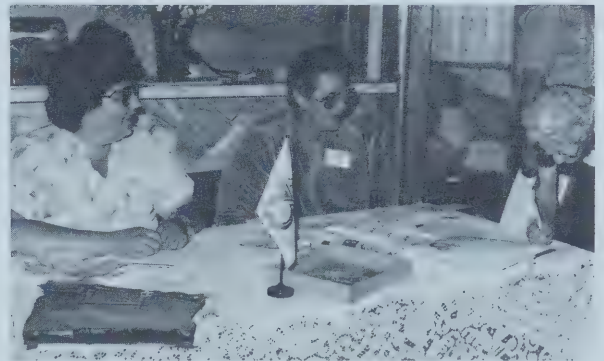


A picture of some of the Norma School Pupils — 1903 to 1956. These attended the homecoming in 1980.

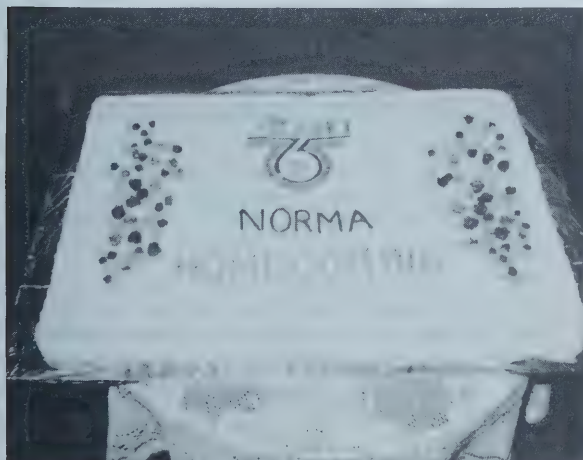
Homecoming 1980



Norma Homecoming Seniors — 1980. Back: John Kask, Mr. Watson. Front: Lilly Abrassart (Prevo), Stella Zimmerman (Weber), Ada Hagerman (Faucher), Marie Watson — teacher in 1924, Cora Mustard (Petro) and Elizabeth Hughes (Kask).



Registration: Norma Homecoming — Janet Clark, Heather Sjare, Mrs. Zimmerman and Johnny Lindman.



Norma Homecoming Cake — July 26, 1980.

No. 79801


DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
TRUST ACCOUNT INTERIM RECEIPT.

Amount, \$ 250

Received from Peter Prevo.
of Sylvan Lake, Alta.
the sum of Three 50 DOLLARS,
Tendered as payment for Hay Permit
on Feb 1.2.
of Section 25 in Township 38 Range 1
W5th Meridian
This Receipt is simply an acknowledgment, and will be followed by a regular receipt if the remittance is accepted.

Act. Agent.

1920 Department of the Interior — Hay Permit to Peter Prevo.

THE PIG CLUB MOVEMENT.

1. This is a co-operative effort on the part of the Provincial Department of Agriculture and any local institution or organization for the purpose of creating and fostering a love for live stock among the boys and girls on the farms.

2. Where Clubs are desired application is made to the Department of Agriculture, and where possible assistance is given in the organization of the Club and securing of young stock.

3. The Canadian Bank of Commerce, Red Deer, has financed the local Club and any boys and girls desiring to join the Club should make application to the undersigned for particulars.

F. C. WHITEHOUSE, Manager.

Officers of the Red Deer Boys' and Girls' Club.

President—Wm. A. Day.

Vice-President—Lillie Prevo.

Secretary-Manager—F. C. Whitehouse.

Directors—Robert Towers.

Basil Dickey

Rod Ellenwood

Lily Hart

Ellis Pye

CLUB MEMBERSHIP

Berkshire Competition

Clarke, Geo.
Cragg, Earl
Day, Wm. A.
Farnell, Frank
Fitch, G. R.
Fitch, Mina
Ireland, May & Herbert
Hart, Lily
Hollenbeck, Bennie F.
Hollenbeck, Fred P.
Pennington, Tom
Reay, Wm. M.
Staples, Ethel & Leah
Trimble, Kenneth & Eunice
Wiggins, Pearl
Woodsworth, Josie & Helen
Sveinson, Leo

Duroc Jersey Competition

Batterson, Bernadine
Batterson, Herbert
Day, Tom
Dickey Basil

Duroc Jerseys (Cont.).

Hamilton, W. Donald
Parks, Negley
Pengelly, Orlando
Prevo, Jessie
Prevo, Lillie E.
Stewart, James & Peter
Towers, Robt.
Trimble, Dorothy
Walters, Eugene
Wilson, Anne
Wright, James
Bratke, Herman

Grade Competition.

Cragg, Colin
Ellenwood, Roderick & Harry
Hart, Geo.
Jones, Hazel & Gladys
Pye, Ellis & Auburn
Silverberg, Isabella
Simpson, Kenneth
Dawe, Wellington H.
Richards, Evan
Veal, Helen

PRIZE LIST

Of the FIRST ANNUAL Pig Club Fair

to be held at

RED DEER

By the

BOYS' AND GIRLS' CLUB

ON

Saturday, Oct.
19th, 1918

Conducted under the auspices of the

Red Deer Agricultural Soc'y

Assisted by

Alberta Department of Agriculture.

The Fair will be held in the yard formerly occupied by the Great West Lumber Co. (opposite Red Deer Grocery Co.), by the kind permission of W. E. Payne.

The thanks of the Club are also due to Messrs. Cushing Bros., Ltd., for the use of the Lumber for the show pens, and to the local newspapers in having generously given space for club announcements at all times.

NO ENTRY FEES.

Handwritten notes:
The Wiggins, Jessie, Lillie & Prevo
to W. A. Day, Secretary
Lillie Prevo, Lillie E. Prevo, Lillie E. Prevo

BERKSHIRFS

Class 1.—Best Pair of Sows distributed 1918	
1st	\$3.00
2nd	\$2.75
3rd	\$2.50
4th	\$2.25
5th	\$2.00
6th	\$1.75
7th	\$1.50
8th	\$1.25
9th	\$1.00
10th	.75
11th	.50
12th	.25

Class 2.—Best Individual Sow distributed 1918	
1st	\$3.00
2nd	\$2.75
3rd	\$2.50
4th	\$1.25
5th	\$1.00
6th	.75
7th	.50

DUROC-JERSEYS.

Class 3.—Best pair of Sows distributed 1918.	
1st	\$3.00
2nd	\$2.75
3rd	\$2.50
4th	\$2.25
5th	\$2.00
6th	\$1.75
7th	\$1.50
8th	\$1.25
9th	\$1.00
10th	.50

Class 4.—Best Individual Sow distributed 1918.	
1st	\$3.00
2nd	\$2.75
3rd	\$2.50
4th	\$1.25
5th	\$1.00
6th	.75

CANADIAN BANKERS' COMPETITION.

Specials in Classes 1 and 3.

Class 5.—Best pair Pure Bred Sows, Berkshire or Duroc Jerseys, distributed 1918	
1st	\$5.00
2nd	\$4.00
3rd	\$3.00
4th	\$2.00
5th	\$1.00

It is a condition of the Canadian Bankers' Association Competition that the pigs must be fed and cared for by the competitor only for at least six weeks prior to the Fair, mid-day excepted if competitor does not get home from school.

GRADES.

Class 6.—Best pair of Grades distributed 1918	
1st	\$5.00
2nd	\$4.00
3rd	\$3.00
4th	\$2.00
5th	\$1.00
6th	.50

The prizes are made higher for pairs of Grades than in Classes Nos. 1 and 3, due to the fact that the Grades could not fairly compete for the special prizes against the pure breds.

Class 7.—Best individual Graded distributed 1918	
1st	\$3.00
2nd	\$2.75
3rd	\$2.25
4th	\$1.00
5th	.50

RECORDS.

Class 8.—Best records of feed used and growth of pigs.	
1st	\$2.00
2nd	\$1.75
3rd	\$1.50
4th	\$1.25
5th	\$1.00
6th	.75
7th	.50
8th	.25

The prize list totals \$110, voluntarily donated by institutions and individuals taking a keen interest in the welfare of the Club, and the sincere thanks of the Club are here expressed to its good friends, viz.:

The Red Deer Agricultural Society.....	\$40
The Canadian Bank of Commerce	\$25
Messrs. The W. E. Lord Co., Ltd.	\$10
Mr. H. F. Kenny	\$10
Mr. Wm. Hammond	\$5
Mr. J. F. Day	\$5
The Canadian Bankers' Association	
(Specials)	\$15
	\$110

Refreshments will be served on the Fair Grounds by the kindness of Mrs. Whitehouse, who cordially invites all Club Members and their parents to partake.

OPERATING MORE THAN **3000** MODERN FOOD DEPARTMENTS

SAFeway STORES

SAFeway STORES LIMITED

1937

M

1		
2	1/2 lb. Sugar	✓ 17
3	1/2 lb. Sugar	✓ 75
4	1/2 lb. Sugar	34
5	1/2 lb. Sugar	21
6	1/2 lb. Sugar	37
7		
8		1.84
9		
10		
11	1/2 lb. Sugar	10
12		
13		7.94
14		
15		
16		
17		

9

P. C. PAT. 1920 & 1931 WESTERN SALES BOOK CO., LTD. WINNIPEG AND VINCOUVER

From Henry and Bea Ward a 1937 Safeway Stores Limited receipt.

17 536

Sylvan Lake, Alta. JUL - 7 1924 19 No

Six months after date I promise to pay

to the order of John O. Sjare

at the Imperial Bank of Canada here \$379.00

Three Hundred & Seventy Nine and 00/100 Dollars

value received

R. M. Seely

1924 — Promissory Note — John O. Sjare.

The Stone Castle

by Ada Hagerman

The Stone Castle was started in 1905, Mr. and Mrs. Auchambeau and Mr. and Mrs. Balleu built a raft of planks and two logs and pushed it up and down the lake shore picking up the special rocks for the castle. It is a replica of Mrs. Auchambeau's home in the southern part of France. At first they carried the rocks in their arms, then they nailed a pole on a deer hide and dragged them and two carried what they could.

One day they came to see us, they saw Dad had a wheelbarrow made of wood. They went home and tried to make one, but it didn't work, so my father made them a wheel and they were as happy with that as we are now with a new car. Once they had a wheel barrow their work went much better. Then Mr. Loiselle bought a team and wagon and they got the castle finished. It is still being lived in today. Later they went on to build the stone house, in 1910 or 1911. Mrs. Auchambeau had money but for the first few years there was nothing but wood and nails to work with.

There was no closed season for deer hunting so we had fresh meat. We had what was called a meat ring, if one person shot a deer he shared it with all his neighbors and one a week kept us all in fresh meat. Birds and rabbits were plentiful and the lake was full of fish. We could put nets in the lake for the first few years.

The Auchambeaus kept goats in the top of the castle until they could get a fence and shed made for them. They milked them and had their meat to eat.



The Stone Castle.

Our Roll of Honour



George Coverdale — World War I.



George Daley — World War I.

World
War
I



Elmer Faucher — World War I.



Our Roll of Honour



Alvin Wilson Canadian Air Force.



Jack Tanche with Mother Germaine in Calgary.



Pat Fadden — World War II.



Dick Austin — Canadian Army.



Kenneth A. Arlint — 1954.



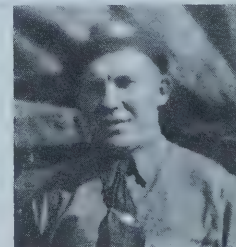
Hugo Selstrom — 1942 taken in Kingston, Ontario.



John Wills.



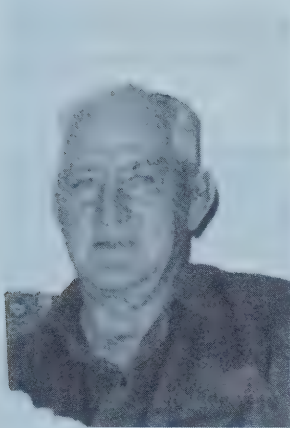
Leo Bellfontaine 1941 — England.



Leonard Pettersen to right.



Armed Forces U.S.A.



Murel Ramsey — U.S. Marines.



Lawrence C. Brett — U.S. Army.



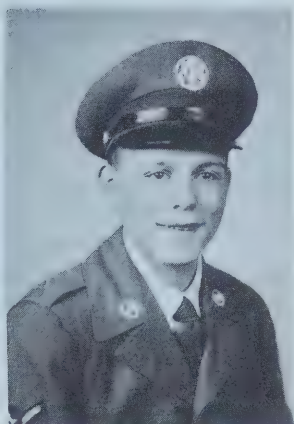
George R. Brett — U.S. Air Force.



Donald and Marilyn Brett — U.S. Navy.



Herbert C. Batterson — U.S. Marines — World War II.



Lee Batterson son of Lawrence — U.S. Navy.



Lawrence Richard Batterson — U.S. Air Force.

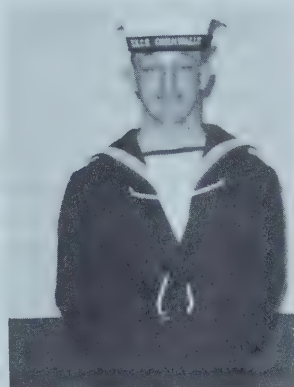


Captain William Brett — World War I.

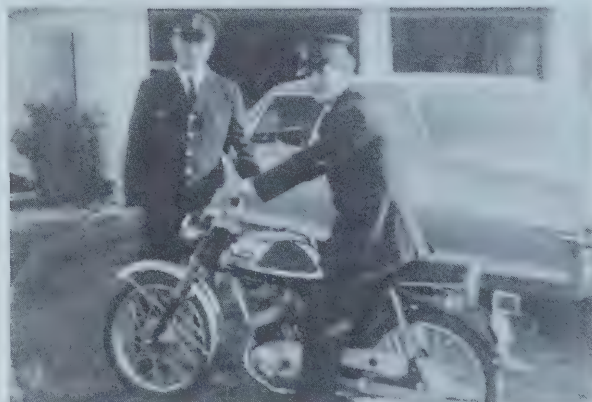
Recent Canadian Armed Forces



Gail Hodgson, RCAF 1960 to 1966.



Dwayne Ramsey, Canadian Navy.



Dennis Ramsey, Canadian Navy.

Family Histories

Ammeter, Norman Alfred

NE-¼-11-39-1-W5

Norman, the youngest child of the late Peter and Freda Ammeter was born in the Poplar Ridge District. He has a sister, Ann, and a brother, Roland. Norman attended schools in Marianne, Aspelund, and Lacombe. Upon leaving school, he worked for several years on oil rigs throughout Alberta. In 1960, he bought the NE-¼-11-39-1-W5 and has been actively farming since then.

Phyllis, the only daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. F. D. Brewer, was born and raised in Vancouver, B.C. She has one brother, Robert, who resides in Vancouver.

On June 18, 1966, Phyllis and Norman were married in Vancouver and returned to live on the John Busaan Farm for three years. In 1969, they moved to the Archie Carlyle Farm where they lived until 1972, then they moved to the E. Ironside place until 1974. In July they moved to their new home on the NE-¼-11-39-1-W5.



Phyllis, Susan, Byran and Norman Ammeter.

Phyllis and Norman have two children. Bryan was born on July 17, 1968, and Susan was born on March 25, 1970. Bryan attends the H. J. Cody School and Susan attends the C.P. Blakely School — both in Sylvan Lake.

The family is actively engaged in community affairs and sports in Sylvan Lake.

Hank and Clazina Arends

Pt NW¼ 36-38-1-W5

During the last year of the war when there was still little food, my husband said many times to the

children. "When the war is over we will move to Texas." It was not Texas, but Canada we sailed to. On April 29th, 1949 we said good bye to our parents and other relatives and left Holland. We had five children, Janine 16, Vickey 14, Pete 13, Lindy 10, and Hank Jr. 5.



Hank Arends Family — 1949. L. to R. back: Janine, Clazina, Vicky, Hank, Peter. Front: Lidy and Hank Jr.

After eleven days on the S.S. Tabinta we arrived in Quebec, May 10th. From there we boarded a train, first to Montreal and later to Belleville, Ontario.

We took up residence with the Family Mel McKeown (who were our sponsors) and Campbellford became our home for the first nine months. A lot of things were different for us. One evening the boys were running after a skunk. They had never seen one before and tried to catch it. The faster the boys were running the more the skunk was spraying. The smell in and around the house was terrible, but we all survived. A friend told me to put all the boys clothes in the ground and sure enough after four days buried in the earth the smell was gone.

In Oct., 1949 Hank Sr. bought his first car, a 1929 Chev. How proud he was to drive his own car. In Feb. 1950 we rented a farm in Lindsay, Ont. and stayed there until Oct. 1952. Then we moved to Dunsford where we bought a 200 acre farm. We sure enjoyed living and working on the farm there. In the 13 years we lived there, four of our children left Ontario to move to Alberta. That left us only the eldest, Janine, who married Gerard Loch from Toronto in 1953. They now live in Burlington, Ontario. Vickey married John Habi from Edmonton in 1958. Pete married Nina Johnson from Edmonton in 1962 and the family still lives there. Lindy married Harry Downey in 1960 and Hank Jr. married Femy Jansen from Red Deer and they live in Calgary.

My husband became ill and the doctor told him to

stop farming. We sold the farm in 1965 and moved to Calgary. Hank Sr. is not a city man and after 4 months of Calgary life he decided it was time to move on. We moved to Sylvan Lake. We were looking for a small place of our own. In May 1967 we found it, and bought this house with three acres from George Braithwaite and we enjoy living here.

In the meantime our two daughters with their families left Alberta for Phoenix, Arizona. They all became U.S. Citizens. That is where Hank and I spend three months of the year to avoid the severe Alberta winters.



Vicky, Hank and Clazina Arends.

Bernard and Olga Arlint

NW 27-38-11-W5

SW 27-38-1-W5

In February, 1947 we bought this place. The building and yard had been sold to Gabriel Liblian, so we built in the northeast corner of the quarter.

Bernard was born in Frankfurt, Kansas, the fourth child in a family of fourteen. He came to Canada by covered wagon with his parents at the age of six.

In 1927 he married Olga Olstad and farmed near Nut Mountain, Sask.

I, Olga, was born in Davidson, North-West Territories (now Sask). I have one brother, Otto, who joined the air force during World War II.

In 1945 we came to Alberta. We lived for about nine months in the Burnt Lake district. While there our son, Kenneth, joined us after being honourably discharged from the South Pacific Command. Later, in 1953, he joined the R.C.A.F. He has two sons, Karwin, born in France and Kevin born in Germany, also one daughter, born in Red Deer.



Bernard and Olga Arlint.



Leila Arlint taken 1953.

Our daughter, Mrs. Lila Radies has two daughters and one son. Debbie, Patti, and Danny were all born in Armstrong, B.C.

Debbie graduated in 1980 from the Prairie Bible Institute at Sexsmith, Alberta, with an Advanced Teacher's Certificate on the Mission Programme.

Austin Family, Bill by Dick

Henry Luther Austin was born in Wisconsin. Rosie Prevo was born in Iowa. They were married in Nebraska in the late 1800s. Lute, as he was called by his neighbors, took up a homestead west of Red Deer in the Poplar Ridge District in 1902. He moved his wife and two boys, Orlie the oldest in the family and Bill, to the homestead in 1903. The first home on the place was a sod shack which they lived in for several years. Two more sons and two daughters were born on the homestead. Millard, now lives in Edmonton, Vera in Longview, Washington and Retta in Birch Bay, Washington. Buster (A. L. Austin), is now on a farm in the Condor area. Orlie and Bill were two of the first students in the original Norma School which at that time was called the Finland School.

Lute bought one of the first threshing machines in the country. This was either an 18 or 21 inch Case. It was a hand fed machine without a straw blower. They

later added a feeder and a blower to make it a little more modern. It was sold or traded and later turned up east of Red Deer and was still in use in the 1940s. The first power unit to run this machine was horse power. Later a single cylinder gas engine was used. This had been a stationary engine that had been converted to move itself by means of a friction drive. As it had no steering mechanism it had to be steered by horses. This engine was called an old Famous. Most of the threshing at that time was done from bundle stacks to avoid having the stooks snowed under. They threshed from Red Deer to Hespero and sometimes barely got finished in time for spring work. Lute had a sawmill on the farm for a few years, as much lumber was needed for building. Bill took over most of the machinery work about the time of the First World War. Bill and his brother-in-law Archie Smith then bought a new machine — a 28 inch Avery that was used until 1936. They also bought a large 2 cylinder gasoline engine that was the twin sister of the Mogul and was sold by I.H.C. This engine had to be left running all night in cold weather as you could not get it started. They worked this operation until 1928 when Archie moved to Rockford, Illinois. Bill bought $\frac{3}{4}$'s of raw land from CPR and along with doing custom breaking and some sawmill work this land was cleared and farmed by him until he sold it to Roy and Sam Bahler in 1948.

Some of the trees on this land were so big it was almost impossible to clear them by hand. The Skocdopole Brothers were in the area at this time with one of the first brush cutters so with the aid of this machine the land was cleared. The stumps left by the brush cutter were so big the ordinary farm tractor at that time was at a total loss. One of the steam engines that was used on the sawmill was put to work and later the old threshing engine was put back in service. As long as the ploughs held together nothing stopped the breaking. The whole of the Austin Family were the neighborhood handymen. They were often called upon to assist neighbors with a mechanical problem.

Orlie married Connie Wilson, a school teacher who taught in the old Norma School. Their family of two girls and one boy moved to B.C. in the mid '20's.

Bill married Mary Caroline (Bea) Smith who was a step daughter of his Uncle Bill Prevo. They have four sons and two daughters. All were students at the Norma School except Orlie who was lost at a very tender age. Both Rosie Marie and W. E. (Dick) went to the old school and were students in the first class.

Rosie Marie married Gus Poffenroth and they had three sons and one daughter. Kenny and Carey are married and living in Calgary. Janet lives in Birch Bay, Washington. Vern is living in Red Deer.

Dick married Margaret Swainson. They live in



Mary (Bea) and William Austin.

Benalto and have three girls and one boy. Linda married Gillman Hills. They live in Benalto. Sharon married Kenneth Lightbown. They live south of Benalto. William and Sandra live at home. Evelyn Beatrice (Bea) married MM (Moss) Jensen. They have one son and one daughter both living in Red Deer.

Lute married and lives in Calgary. He has two girls and one boy, Dianne, Susanne and Lane.

E. F. (Gene) married Carol Cody. They live in Red Deer and they have three girls, Theresa, Tammy and Susan.

The Bahler Family

by Lila and Flora

Lila and Flora are sisters, and came from a large family of twelve. We were born in Retlaw, a little town in Southern Alberta, which is now a ghost town. There were seven girls and five boys in our family. Our mother died when we were very young, and as each girl grew older she would take a turn to stay home and look after the younger ones. We were on a dry land farm during the Hungry Thirties, and knew what hard times were.



Sammy, Lila and Sam Bahler — 1967.

Roy and Sam were also from a large family, and they too lost their mother in an early part of their lives. Their father homesteaded at Bow Island, Alberta, later moving to Lethbridge, and then to Picture Butte where they were living when we met them.

Sam was working with his dad on a farm near Picture Butte when he married Lila in 1942. A son was born to them in 1946, young Sam.

Roy was in the trucking business, mostly hauling sugar beets for the farmers until after the war, when the farmers started to prosper and get their own trucks. This made it more and more difficult to get work. We were married in 1945.



Flora and Roy Bahler — Centennial Year — 1967.



Sandra, Sam and Bradley Bahler — 1980.

It was at this time that we came to Red Deer to visit our brother, Lewis Longacre. He lived just north of the city. We liked this area so much that we thought we would like to live here. Roy and Sam talked it over and decided they would try farming if they could get a place up here. Lewis took us around to look at different farms but there was no way that we had enough money to buy a farm for each one. So we decided that if we “pooled” our money we would

have enough to buy one farm. We finally decided to buy the former Austin farm, NW Sec 25 T38 R1 W5th.

We loaded all our worldly possessions in a box car. They consisted of 3 horses, 2 pigs, 5 cows and 2 geese (which turned out to be 2 ganders) and a bit of furniture. Sam rode in the box car, and Lila and young Sam, who was fifteen months old, came with Roy and Flora in an old 28 Chev. It took us all day to come from Picture Butte to Red Deer. We stayed with Lewis and Cleo until we could get possession of the farm.

There was only one house on the farm, so that meant that we would have to live together. A lot of people thought there was never a house big enough to hold two women, but we got along fine.

On March 8th 1948, Bill Austin had a sale, with Alex and Keith Sim holding the sale. We met a lot of our neighbors at that sale, some were Furnalds, Coverdales, Ramseys, Abrassarts, Gonskys and many more.

We were ready to go farming. There were only 80 acres of land cleared on the place, so we hired Skocdopoles Clearing Outfit from Hespero to come and clear some more land. Then we got our first taste of picking roots, a job that we will never forget. We were also milking a few cows, and hauling the milk to the corner every morning, so the milk truck could pick it up and take it to the condensery in Red Deer.

There was only one well on the place, and it did not supply enough water for both the house and the stock, so we had to haul water for the house from Ramseys. We would take three five gallon cans and get water every morning, when we took up the milk.

After a few years of farming Gonskys moved to B.C. and we rented that farm for four years until we got enough money to buy it.

Young Sam started school at Norma in 1952, his first teacher was Mrs. Lees. He went to Norma School until 1956 and then he was bussed into Red Deer to River Glen School.

In 1949, Flora started to play for dances with brother Lewis, his sons and Alvan Wilson. We played in every hall for miles around, and played for nearly every wedding dance, anniversary, farewell dance, etc., in the whole district.

Finally, after working and living together for ten years, we bought the Jacob Tinner farm in the Poplar Ridge district. Roy and Flora moved onto that farm in 1958, on Oct. 23. The two brothers still farmed together, using the same machinery.

In 1968, young Sam rented a quarter section of land from Bernard Sjare and started to farm with his dad and Uncle Roy, as Roy's health was not too good. In 1969 young Sam married Sandra Mullin from Red

Deer. Her parents bought the former Crossroads School and made it into the present home.

In 1969, Roy had open heart surgery, and died in 1970. After his death Flora sold the farm to Sam and Sandy and moved into Red Deer where she still resides.

In 1978 a son was born to Sam and Sandy, Bradley Roy. They still live on the farm, Young Sam farms with his dad, and is raising hogs. Sandra teaches school part-time in Red Deer.

Clara and Cecil Barker Family Shirley Barker Polson

My father, Cecil Barker was the second youngest son of Frank Barker, a pioneer farmer in the Allan School District northeast of Okotoks. Dad also farmed in that area from 1919-1940. He became "disenchanted" with what he referred to as the "south country" during the depression years and took out a homestead in the Fort Assiniboin area in 1937. The next winter he built a log cabin but never lived in it. My mother noticed an ad in the "Property for Sale" column in the Calgary Herald which she thought was worth investigating. The land was located in the Sylvan Lake Area. Dad saw the land, liked the country and paid \$4,000.00 for the NW ¼ and part of the SW 1.4 of 3-39-1-W5. The family moved to the farm in 1941. Dad hired Charlie Parker, who did trucking in the Penhold-Red Deer area, to move our possessions. To the children in the family it seemed like a very long distance. It took all day to get there. We stopped near Carstairs and had a picnic lunch in a hay meadow.



The Barker Family — 1971. Back L. to R.: Shirley, Gordon, Tom, Muriel. Front L. to R.: Joyce, Cecil, Clara and Frank.

The property originally belonged to Washington Petro but was rented to Mr. and Mrs. Simmons at that time. There was a large log barn, an old house and various other smaller buildings.

Dad immediately began construction of a new home. He hired a drifter by the name of Sam Johnson to help him. Sam claimed to be a brother of the some what notorious Albert Johnson, the "Mad Trapper". He proved to be a knowledgeable carpenter and the family moved into the new house two weeks before Christmas. However, much work was left to be done on the interior. During the slack times in the winter Dad would buy enough wall board to finish one room. Thus it took eight years to complete the job!

The property was a paradise. The wind did not blow as it had further south. The house overlooked beautiful Sylvan Lake. Wild raspberries and saskatoons grew in abundance. Mother would make gallons of chokecherry syrup each summer to use on pancakes during the winter. I particularly loved the wild flowers; shooting stars, wood violets; lady slippers, tiger lilies, and many others that grew in the woods. A creek flowed through the property all summer. We had never seen flying squirrels or groundhogs before.

Along the north end of the property was a well worn trail which the Indians had used as they travelled across the country. On a high spot was their camp ground. When the land was broken up for farming some years later, various Indian artifacts were turned up such as arrow heads, axes and pemmican.

There was one major drawback with the farm, only 12 acres out of the 216 were under cultivation. It was covered with bush and tall timber. So began many arduous years brushing and clearing the land.

The first year Dad broke 40 acres. Mr. Skocdopole from Eckville usually did the brushing, although the Layden brothers were hired one year. Picking roots became an endless job. The larger trees were felled, cut in lengths and split for fire wood. Dad built a wood splitter from a tractor wheel welded on a wedge and used a gas powered pump engine to drive the machine. Wood was piled on a platform, split and then stacked in cords to be sold to cottage owners for their stoves and fireplaces. No summer camps for kids in those days. We spent the time, picking roots, splitting wood, stacking wood and delivering it. The family took off one day each summer to attend the Benalto Stampede. Living beside the lake had its compensation. Every evening the Barker kids could be found swimming. Although we lived just across the road from the lake, we walked about a ½ to get to a sandy beach. Those were the days when people only owned one pair of shoes at a

time. I remember being afraid I might somehow lose mine or someone might steal them, so I always walked the half mile on the gravel road in my bare feet. On Sundays the Barker Farm was the meeting place for the kids on their way to the lake.

Dad kept a herd of range cattle and always milked nine or ten cows. The milk was shipped daily to the Alpha Milk Company in Red Deer. In the summer he also sold milk to the cottagers. If he ever encountered a problem with a cow, he always called Elmer Petro. Elmer wasn't a licensed veterinarian but most farmers agreed he knew just as much. In the summer Dad would put up hay on Burnt Lake with Mr. Thevenaz.

Mother never had a minute to herself. It was not until the late 1950's she had the convenience of power, or a water pressure system in the house.

She also helped dad with outside work. She always kept chickens and every spring would buy several hundred turkeys. One time someone gave Muriel some duck eggs which she put under an old hen, five of them hatched. The poor frustrated hen knew something was strange when her family always wanted to swim in the water trough.

Dad always drove a car and he did it with utmost care and caution. When I'd see him turning the corner half a mile away I would rush to the kitchen and I usually managed to get the dishes done before he and mother drove in the yard.

Most of the close neighbors were cottage owners and were only there for the summer months. Year round neighbors included Mr. and Mrs. Foltz in the little house at the bend. Walter Jackson who operated the store in "Jacksonville" John McCoig who owned the service station at the "Junction", the George Daly family "across the Tracks" Bob and Vi Bromlay, Dougall and Ida Caughey and the Soderburg family one mile up the road. Then, there was Mrs. Jarvis at Jarvis Bay, Mr. and Mrs. Faucher and their daughter, Mrs. Jasper and her son Louis, and the Zimmerman family. The Zimmermans were expert horsemen and always rode past our place every Saturday on their way to town.

The Barker children all attended school at Norma. Since there were 17 years difference in ages between Frank and Muriel, there was always at least one Barker attending from 1941 until the school closed. We walked about 2 miles to school, winter and summer, regardless of weather conditions. On blustery days we always hoped the local Catholic priest, Father Stewart, would find some reason to go to Red Deer, as he was never known to pass a kid on the road without stopping. Occasionally in winter, the school furnace would not "draw" properly and the room would either be freezing or full of smoke.

The uncomfortable times were offset by the fun

times. There were the usual humorous incidents. At one point the teacher decided the children should have hot soup or cocoa with their lunch at noon so the kids took turns preparing this. Brother Gordon and Allan Ramsey were the undisputed worst cooks. Each Friday a different family would send a special treat. Joyce recalls the time one family sent a pot of stew. The pot was placed on a sled, but partway to school the sled upset, accidentally or otherwise, and the stew spilled out on the ground. The kids all gathered round, scooped up the stew with their mitts and continued on.

There were also the times that weren't so funny. I recall one morning when we arrived at school to find a few wisps of smoke rising from the spot where the barn had stood the day before. It was rumored someone must have forgotten to "butt the cigarette", but the culprit was never identified! Nature study hikes were fun times except on the one occasion when the teacher took the class to Burnt Lake and the kids were chased by a bull. The kids also looked forward to the ball games and track meets against the Durham, Poplar Ridge and Rainy Creek Schools. The unsung heroes were the teachers. I'm sure few ever realized or appreciated the countless hours or full-time dedication they directed to their work.

We attended the Presbyterian Church in Sylvan Lake for some years and later mother and dad attended the Gospel Chapel. Dad was Sunday School Superintendent, taught a Bible Class and served on the Executive Board of both churches at various times. He canvassed the town for British and Foreign Bible Society for many years, generally with the help of several town ladies, notably Mrs. Doug McCutchen.

In 1962 the Department of Highways widened the road past the farm and in so doing cut through the property at one point. Tom now lives on the acreage cut off by the road and Gordon lives in the original building site. He is presently building a new home on the property. Approximately 72 acres on the south end of the farm have been sold to Cliff Richmond.

Mother and dad raised a family of three boys and three girls.

Muriel and her husband Lanny Walkey live in Calgary with three children Lee, Shelly and Carrie.

Joyce and Don Poole make their home in Vancouver, B.C.

Frank and his wife Jean are living in Lacombe. Their sons, Micheal and Brent are working and living away from home. Bonnie is attending High School in Lacombe.

Gordon, married to the former Ann Vig of Bentley, has four children. Beverly who works in a

Bank in Sylvan Lake, Larry of Edmonton, Janice and Don at home.

Tom married Elaine Norem of Red Deer. They live at Sylvan and have three children. Deanna, commuting each day to Red Deer to work. Travis with one year to finish in High School and three year old Cheryl.

My husband Dave and I (Shirley) live at Strathmore. Our four children are Lynette Smith of Seattle, Washington, Brad an apprentice Diesel mechanic, Maureen, working and residing in Calgary and Scott completing grade 12 this year.

Dad passed away in 1971 at the age of 74.

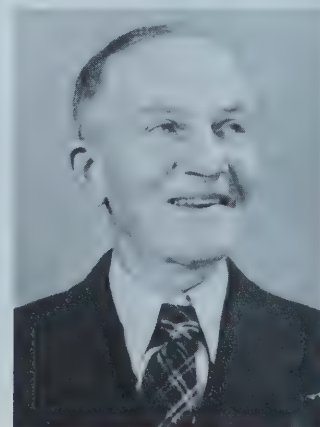
Mother lived at Strathmore for 6 years but has recently bought a condominium in Calgary. She remains active and in reasonably good health. She is 76.

My brothers, sisters and myself consider ourselves fortunate, and indeed privileged to have been a part of the lives of these two people who knew hard times, but gave much of what they had and were an example of Christian living in both word and deed.

Emile and Andrea Bellefontaine **by Leo Bellefontaine**

My father, Emile Bellefontaine came to Vancouver, B.C. from Europe at the turn of the century. He had been head waiter in many large hotels on the continent and in Scotland and England. He continued to do the same work at the old C.P.R. Hotel in Vancouver. He loved people and enjoyed his work.

My mother was Andrea Chambon, daughter of Henri and Philomene Chambon. She came to Canada with her parents and brother Henri in the 1890s. They pioneered in Manitoba and Saskatchewan. Grandmother Chambon often told of the Indians raiding her garden. She was very frightened by them and would wield her broom and shout at them. They moved to San Francisco, California where Grandfather man-



Emile Bellefontaine.



Andrea (Chambon) Bellefontaine during the 1920's.

aged a silk factory. After experiencing the 1906 earthquake they decided to move away from the area and went north to Vancouver B.C.

Mom and Dad were wed in 1907 in Vancouver where they met. They moved to the Norma District east of Sylvan Lake where they bought NW-35-38-1-W5. We three children, Auguste, myself Leo, and Helen were born in Sylvan Lake. Mom and Dad returned to Vancouver in 1920 where they worked until 1927 when they came back to the farm. During their absence from the farm Mr. Cocher rented the land.

We were quite a large family on the farm as Grandmother Chambon and Dad's three brothers — Charlie, Gus and Leon lived with us.

We three children all went to the Norma Schools. Auguste and I went to the Old Norma School, formerly the Finland School and Sylvan Lake school. Helen and I then went to the New Norma School which was just north of our farm.

My last teacher was Miss Elizabeth Kask. I have many memories of school days.

Mom and Dad sold their farm to Mr. Merling about 1950. The present owners are Mr. and Mrs. Henry Krebs. Mr parents moved west again settling in New Westminster where they lived until passing.

Auguste married Nora and had a son Auguste Jr. Auguste passed away in Toronto in 1971.

Helen married Henry Wensley and had a son Henry Jr. She passed away in 1945.

Mother passed away in 1957 and Dad in 1975 at the age of 95. He was the oldest of a large family and



L. to R.: Gus, Charlie, Emil and Leon Bellefontaine, all brothers. The little one is August, son of Emil. This was taken on the farm before the 1st World War. Taken in Sylvan Lake.

survived all of them. They are buried in the Sylvan Lake Cemetery. Also resting in this cemetery are Leon Bellefontaine, Charlie Bellefontaine and Grandmother Philomene Chambon.

Leo Bellefontaine

I was born at Sylvan Lake, Alberta. I left Dad's farm NW-35-38-1-W5th when I was about 18 years old in 1934. I went to Vancouver, B.C. to find work. Jobs were very hard to find during the hungry thirties. I got a job at the laundry at the Old C.P.R. Hotel Vancouver at 11¢ an hour for 9 hour days without overtime. I worked there until 1940, by then wages were 61¢ an hour.



L. to R.: Shirley (Auguste's fiancée) Robert — 4th son, Neil — 3rd son, Leon — oldest, Marlene — Leon's girlfriend, Auguste — 2nd son, Leo, Margaret, missing, Carol, Valerie, and Cheryl.



Leo, Dad, Helen, Mom, August Bellefontaine.



Grandmother Chambon.

I met Margaret while working at the laundry and we were married in 1940.

In 1940, I volunteered for the Army and was soon on my way overseas. I was sent home to hospital in Vancouver in July, 1944.

I operated street cars in Vancouver and drove bus in and out of Vancouver for twenty years. I then began working with heavy construction — moving to Merritt, B.C. in 1971.

Margaret and I have seven children; Carol Anne, Valerie Helen, Leon, Auguste, Neil, Cheryl Anne, and Robert Allan.

Thomas and Elizabeth Bigam

Thomas and Elizabeth Bigam and their family of five came from McBain, Michigan, U.S., in 1902 and homesteaded on the north shore of Sylvan Lake. One of the quarters is now the Sunnyside Pentecostal Camp, Letti's own the other.



The Thomas Bigam Family — 1917. L. to R. back: Murray, John, Andrew, and George. Seated: Elizabeth (mother), Bertha, Hazel, Edith and Thomas. Front: Norman and Gordon.

They had farmed at McBain, Michigan and decided to come to Canada because of the opportunity to obtain a homestead and build a better future for their family.

They travelled by train to Olds where they stayed for a few months with former friends from Michigan. While there they acquired some horses, a wagon and supplies. Then they travelled by wagon through the bush trails to the unimproved land. They used horses, walking plows and axes to clear the heavy timber. The younger children attended the Carrett School beginning in 1903, while the older boys helped to clear the land and support the family. They also helped to build a log house and barn.

Three of the Bigams married Stephenson. George married Jessie Stephenson. Murray married Laura Stephenson. Hazel married Walter Stephenson. Andrew married Edith Petro. John married Bertha Weber.

Their stories follow: Andrew Bigam married Edith Petro who lived with her family on NW ¼-3-39-1-W5 in 1912. They had a baby girl, Blanche born to them in June 1914. She died of spinal meningitis in 1915. Gordon Bigam was born on August 13, (Friday), 1915. There were two other babies who died at birth so Gordon was the only surviving child. He was born at Bentley and lived with his parents 3

miles south and 1 west of Bentley for three years. Then they moved to the farm on the Sylvan Lake-Bentley highway (not a highway then), NE ¼-16-39-1-W5. He lived there until 1936. Gordon attended school at Durham, finishing his grade 10 there and taking grade 11 in Bentley. His first teacher was Mr. Wright who borrowed a saddle horse from Andrew Bigam, lived at Dingwall's Rooming House in Sylvan Lake and rode horseback back and forth to Durham each day. Other teachers were: Mrs. Gill, whose husband had been a victim of gas and shell shock in the war and was not able to work, and Jeff Farewell.

Gordon Bigam moved to his grandfather's homestead on the north shore of Sylvan Lake to begin farming on his own. He batched for a year before marrying Ivy Duncan in 1937.



L. to R. back row: Trevor, Glen, Jay, Jerry Leroy. 2nd row: Kathy, Carol, Gordon, Ivy, Lynne, Dot. Front row: Colin and David.

After their marriage on Nov. 30, 1937, Gordon and Ivy Bigam lived on the original homestead for a year, then farmed the Garries Farm 2 miles south and 1¼ miles west of Bentley until 1944. They moved to Sylvan Lake in 1944 and operated a taxi and cartage business until moving into Red Deer in 1949.

Gordon worked in accounting and parts department for Nance Co. for a few years, then as Appliance Manager for Stewart Bros. He has worked over twenty years at The Red Deer Advocate, most of that time as Supervisor of the Classified Ad Department. He retired on August 1, 1980.

Gordon and Ivy have three sons. Glen who married Carol Ponto of Eckville. They have two boys and one girl. Glen is on the staff of the Chemistry Dept. at the University of Alberta. Jerry married a Red Deer girl, Lynne Higgins. They have two boys. Jerry is an Economist and has his own consulting firm. They also have a picture frame manufacturing busi-

ness in Edmonton which he and Lynne jointly operate.

Leroy is Purchasing Manager for a large oil equipment firm in Calgary and has one son.

Gordon's parents Andrew and Edith moved to Sylvan Lake where they operated a cartage business and later Andrew became caretaker of the Sylvan Lake School. He had a number of strokes before passing away in Dec. 1949. Edith lived with relatives until her death on Dec. 28, 1963.

John Bigam married Bertha Weber who with her sister Stella Zimmerman had attended Norma School. They have three children. Alice married William Pearce. They had one little girl and all three of them contacted TB, their daughter died when she was around 2 years old. Alice died about 5 years later, Billie Pearce recovered and lives at Whitelaw, Alberta.

Norman is a cabinet maker and lives at Hines Creek, he has four sons. Lyle, an engineer with D.P.W. lives in Edmonton and has three step children. Bertha passed away in 1941. John died Nov. 13, 1952.

Tim and Marilyn Bradley SE ¼-12-39-1-W5

Tim and I were married on June 7, 1975 at Sylvan Lake. Tim is the eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Don Bradley of Red Deer and I am the eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Nick Ilcisin of this district. At the time of our marriage, Tim was employed with Canadian National Railways and I worked at the Associate



Marilyn, Tim and Scott Bradley — 1980.

Clinic in Red Deer. Because we both wanted to live in the country we bought a trailer and located it on my parents SE quarter where we lived for 3½ years.

1979 proved to be a very profitable year for us. To start the year off we were blessed with a son, Scott Michael, Born Feb 3. In the spring we bought a new home in Sylvan Lake, and in August we purchased the dairy from my father. Tim has a three mile drive from the house to the farm which has so far worked out very well.

In the fall of 1980 Tim was elected to Town Council in Sylvan Lake so is kept very busy. I am very lucky to be able to stay home with our son. We are expecting our second child in the summer of 1981.

The Norma District is like one big happy family to us, and even though we are not living there anymore, we still feel very much a part of it.

Hans Brodersen — SE ½-36-38-1-W5 by Wanda Schmidt and Marion Zenik

Hans Brodersen was born in 1875, Schlessweig, Holstein, Germany. He sailed to America in 1891, taking 16 days to cross the Atlantic. He was very seasick. He settled in Omaha, Nebraska, and came to Canada and homesteaded in the Suffield district. The Suffield Nuclear Testing Station is on his abandoned homestead.



Hans' 75th birthday in 1949. Etta and Hans Brodersen.

Etta Brodersen (Caines), born in 1887 in Elginburg, Ontario, came west to Calgary in 1910. She worked in Calgary as a telephone operator during the time they were installing the automatic system there. Etta married Jim Farquar and they had one daughter, Wanda. Jim was killed in the first World War in March of 1918.

Etta started a restaurant in Alderson, Alberta (now a ghost town) where she met Hans Brodersen, a bachelor farmer who lived near Medicine Hat. They were married in 1922, Wanda was then 9 years old. They had a daughter Marion. When she was eight weeks old they moved to the Eckville district. Hans had a brother living in Benalto. In February 1929 they moved to the Louis Prevo farm in the Norma district. In 1951 they sold the farm and moved to Edmonton. Where Hans passed away in 1952 and Etta in 1976.

Wanda attended school in Alderson, and Eckville. She continued her education at Olds and Red Deer.

Marion started school at Norma, in Sept, 1929. Her first teacher was Elizabeth Kask, followed by Mary Sjare and Miss Lillian Byers. In Jan, 1943 Marion moved to Edmonton and attended Alberta College. After graduation she worked as a stenographer with Northern Electric for five years. In 1950 Marion married Joe Zenik. They have two daughters. Dawn is going to University; Dale is working in Edmonton. Marion and Joe are still residing in Edmonton.

Wanda married Ralph Schmidt of the Aspelund District in 1936. They have three sons. Fred married Ruth Papineau of Red Deer in 1958. They have twin daughters and a son. Fred is a surveyor for the City of Calgary. Glen is a mechanic. He and his wife Betty have two children Debbie and Craig. Ross is a pharmacist. He has two children Reed and Laurel. Wanda and Ralph moved to Calgary where Ralph operates a service station in the Brentwood District.

Boquet, Joe by Ada Hagerman

Joe came to the SW-¼-10-39-1-W5 from Saginaw, Michigan in 1898. He brought a small sawmill with him. This made good rough lumber from planks to inch lumber. In our first home, the floor was made of these planks and the roof finished with two ply of the inch lumber until we could get shingles. Joe cleared 15 acres to get his title for his land. He lived in a three roomed house. In 1910 Joe took his mill out west and only lived on the farm during the winter. Later he took sick so his son took him back to Saginaw.

Henry Chambon taken from information supplied by John Tanche

Henry Chambon was French. Before coming to Sylvan Lake in 1910 he had been a foreman in a factory in Spain. The Chambons bought a quarter section opposite the Kingsep quarter.



250 years of old geezers — Mattie Chambon, John Tanche and me, Henry Chambon.

They had two children; a daughter, Andrea who married Emile Bellefontaine in Vancouver; a son Henry who, after the first world war settled on the quarter connecting the Bellefontaine place. They were exceptionally good oil painters. Many of their paintings hung on the walls of their home.

Henry was wounded in the war and suffered from it all his life. He died a few years ago in Penticton from a heart ailment. His wife Mattie died a few months later. They had no children.

Clark, Fred and Janet by Janet

I came to the Norma District in the fall of 1951. I went to Norma School until 1957 when we were bussed to Red Deer. After finishing high school I took a business machine course in Calgary where I worked for A.P. Grain Co.



L. to R.: Fred, Tyler, Janet, Jeff, Brent and Gregg Clark. June 1980.

In 1965 I went to Vancouver to work. There I met Fred Clark who was working for B.C. Telephone. We were married in July 1966.

Fred was born in the county of Essex in England. He came to High River, Alberta in 1958. Fred is now working for AGT as a splicer.

We have four sons: Gregg was born Oct. 9, 1967 in North Vancouver. Brent was born Oct. 4, 1968 in North Vancouver. Jeffrey was born July 8, 1972. Tyler came along July 9, 1978 in Red Deer.

In 1972 Fred was transferred to Aldergrove, B.C. We bought an acreage there to live on. One year later he got a transfer to Nelson, B.C. We spent one year in Nelson then we moved back to Red Deer. We lived in the city one year and by the fall of 1975 our mobile home was set up on my parents farm. (Joe and Vera Gaukler).

We now spend our winter months at hockey rinks. Fred coaches and the three older boys play hockey.

At present I have a ceramic shop at Sylvan Lake.

Jim and Agnes Colbert — Pt NE ¼-35-38-1-W5

Jim and Agnes moved with their two children, Bruce and Susan, to the Norma District March 27, 1971, after purchasing Murel and Evelyn Ramsay's property. Jim was raised in the Whitelaw area, west of Peace River, and Agnes was born and raised in the Peace River area. They were married in Edmonton, March 2, 1957 and lived in various centres in Alberta and British Columbia from Cold Lake to Pincher Creek to Fort St. John. Jim was in the construction business and they went where work was available. One year jobs were scarce in Alberta, but work was



L. to R.: Jim, Agnes, Susan and Bruce Colbert.

available in St. John, New Brunswick — they took up the challenge and enjoyed the experience.

After returning from the East, they lived in Red Deer until moving to the Norma District.

Jim is still working in gas plant construction. Agnes has been an employee of the Auction Mart office staff for the past ten years and is also a part time school bus driver.

Bruce is presently serving a mechanic's apprenticeship with Prairie Bus Lines in Red Deer and is also a school and charter bus driver. In his spare time he has obtained a theatre projectionist's license, and works in one of the local theatres.

Susan attended the University of Lethbridge to complete her Bachelor of Education degree. Susan is an avid horsewoman, having belonged to the Red Deer 4-H Horseman Club for ten years. She has also participated in horse shows and gymkhana's whenever possible.

Coverdale, George and Elsie

Sept 15, 1897-1961

June 10, 1898-1973

SW-¼-1-39-1-W5

George Allan Coverdale was born Sept 15, 1897 in Kansas, USA. He was the 6th child of Isaac and Agnes Coverdale who moved to Lacombe in March 1906 with 8 children. George had an older brother,



Agnes Coverdale front, Elsie and George Coverdale.

Sam, and six sisters, Annah, Esther, Beth, Ruth, Agnes and Lois.

George's father bought land 3½ miles south of Lacombe, along what is now No. 2A highway. George attended Mountain Grove School and later Blackfalds School. He walked 1½ miles to Mountain Grove when he could walk through the fields. If the snow got too deep it was two miles by the road. He was the janitor at the school so had to be there early to light the wood fire and stay later to sweep the floors.

George was his father's only help on the farm so he worked hard from the time he was very young. He milked 8 or 9 cows by hand besides doing the other chores. He would bring them home and break them to ride or drive. I can still see George at home on a bucking horse hanging on for dear life. Mother would be yelling at him to get off. One day we girls hitched up a team of George's broncos. The result was a run-away and a telephone pole was all that stopped them.

George was in the Canadian Army in the First World War. He just got to England when the armistice was signed. He came back to the farm in Lacombe. By now Dad had moved to Lacombe so George had to batch. He made good oatmeal cookies in cake form, so you had to cut them. Rolling them out was a lot of work so George did it the easy way.

On April 7, 1926, George was married to Elsie Edgington of Red Deer. Elsie was a telephone operator in Lacombe with George's sister. Elsie and George lived on the home farm for many years. In 1931 Gertrude Agnes their only child was born.

George was very good with sick animals. When a neighbor called, George would leave his work and attend to their animals. The neighbors used to say he was as good as a vet.

George was very good at stooking grain. Dad would drive an old fashioned binder, George could keep up with the binder.

One day my sister Agnes and I thought it would be fun to help George. This didn't work very well, our stooks wouldn't stand up. George would laugh and ask if we couldn't do a better job. This made us more determined to make our sheaves stand, but no dice. George's sheaves were there to stay when he did the stooking.

George was quite a tease, but I'll always remember how good he was to every one and to me his baby sister.

George always attended the dances in the area, barn dances and all. Agnes and I always wanted to go along, but Mother felt we were too young. George, unlike most brothers his age didn't mind if we tagged along. He would tell Mother to let us go and he'd

look after us, so we learned to dance at a pretty young age.

George was a great one for telling tales and stories, which we enjoyed all laughing together. He enjoyed his own jokes as much as we did. I remember him telling about a boar that he couldn't keep inside a fence. One day a salesman came with an electric fence. He guaranteed it would keep the hog in. They got the boar in a corner and put the fencer around him. The boar went forward touched the fence and got a shock, jumped back and got it from behind. He took one big leap ahead. The last they saw of the boar it was going at high speed across the field taking the electric fencer with him.

He also told the story about a neighbor who had come from England to farm, and knew nothing about it. One day the Englishman had killed a snake which had a big bump in it. He pushed the lump up to the snakes mouth — out popped a frog “hopping,” “hopping,” “Hopping”. No one could tell a joke like George and get so much fun out of it.

George and Elsie and their daughter moved to the Norma district SW-¼-1-39-1-W5 in 1943. Agnes continued her schooling at Norma from Mountain Grove in Lacombe. She received her high school education at Red Deer High School, which is now Central High. Agnes worked at the Lacombe Hospital, Ritz Drug store at Sylvan Lake, Singer Sewing and Canada Safeway, where she met her husband Cliff Bailey. They were married Feb. 16, 1957 at Gaetz Memorial United Church in Red Deer. They had four children.



L. to R. back: Elsie Coverdale, Cliff Bailey, Agnes Bailey. L. to R. front: Michael Brent, Sherry Lynne, Stephen, Allen and Linda.

Sherry Lynne (Mrs. Dave Saby) they reside in Edmonton where Sherry is an RN Assistant at the U of A Hospital. Her husband is from Red Deer. He is an accountant and a driving instructor. Dave and Sherry were married in Red Deer August 25, 1977. They have two boys, Jason Robert and Jonathen Edward.

Linda is living with Dave and Sherry and going to school in Edmonton.

Michael Brent lives in Red Deer and is employed with an oil company.

Stephen Allan lives in Red Deer and is a cook and manager at a restaurant. Cliff and Agnes or “Snooky” as she was called by her family, lived in Red Deer. Agnes passed away Oct. 1, 1977 at the age of 46. Cliff who came to Red Deer in 1954 from Bowden, worked for Safeway and still lives in Red Deer.

George and Elsie lived on the farm in the Norma District until 1961. George passed away in 1961 and Elsie retired to Red Deer where she was an active member of the Ladies Auxiliary, the Friendship Club, Canadian Legion and the Central Alberta Pioneers and Oldtimes Association. Elsie died in Dec. of 1973.

While living in the Norma District, George and Elsie were great neighbours. No one ever left their home hungry, coffee was always on. George enjoyed his curling, and curled in the Farmers Bonspiels in Red Deer and Sylvan Lake. They took in the dances in the area and helped with all the community activities. They were always able to take time to help a neighbor and to tell a few stories.

Cuendet, Charles

by Lily

The C.P.R. was sending out pamphlets on immigration to Canada and as my father was tired of being a watchmaker in Switzerland, he immigrated to Canada about 1906. Although he and my mother were practically engaged, it was deemed best for the man to come first and get settled. My mother, the former Martha Thevenaz left Switzerland in 1908 to come to Pittsburg, U.S.A., where she was a French Governess to the Laughlin children (of Jones & Laughlin Iron and Steel Works of Pittsburg).

My father roamed around Saskatchewan, and British Columbia, and finally took up a homestead at Alhambra. As he didn't speak English he had to learn from the other pioneers. My father didn't wish my mother to live in such a wilderness so he bought the farm at Sylvan Lake from Mr. Dath — SW ¼-34-38-1-5.

My parents were married at Red Deer in 1913 by the Rev. Brown, a Presbyterian Minister there for

many years. Rev. Brown was fluent enough in French to perform the ceremony in that language.

Although there were 80 acres on the farm, only about 10 were cultivated. Water for the cattle had to be brought up from the lake. As soon as they could finance it, they had a well drilled.

Their only transportation was by horse and buggy and to come to Red Deer and back was all in a day's work.

In 1917 my mother had a major operation. She was three months in the Red Deer hospital. Those were the days that you had to pay for everything, no medi-care, blue cross, etc. A public ward of eight was \$6.00 a day. Interest rates were 20% so borrowing was prohibitive to the early settlers. My father was able to sell the homestead and that just paid for my mother's hospital bill.

After that things began to pick up and by 1924 we all went back to Switzerland for one year. That year we had a complete wipe-out with hail. It was -50° F. at Christmas and on our arrival home at the end of March the snow was up to the fence posts.

Mother joined the Ladies Aid at its beginning and worked hard with the other ladies to raise money to start a church. For their annual chicken supper she would take a day or two and drive a few ladies around the country, canvassing for the chickens they needed for the supper. Sometimes it took all three of them to coax a chicken from a farmer. All the live chickens would be taken to the Dingwall Boarding House, and there Mr. Dingwall would kill, pluck and clean them. They had bake sales, etc., and anything that didn't sell was peddled along the lake shore to the summer campers. There was nothing wasted, plus many laughs and good fellowship.

My father helped to build the Presbyterian

Church. I played my first hymn there when I was nine years old.

The Calgary Power Line and the first Natural Gas Line were on our property. For convenience we asked to have a road opened, (only one mile apart instead of the usual two.) This is now the Calgary Power Line Road. This east-west road goes past the Sr. Citizens Lodge.

We left the farm in 1942 and moved to Sylvan. My father passed away in 1945. Mother and I then moved to Red Deer. She passed away in August, 1978.

George A. and Isabel C. Daley **SE½ 3-39-1-5**

George Augustus Daley was born Feb 15, 1896 at Farran's Point, Ontario. He was raised along the banks of the Welland Canal and watched the ocean going vessels slip through the locks between the St. Lawrence River and Lake Ontario. He completed his upper schooling in Cornwall, Ontario, commuting daily by train.

During the construction of the St. Lawrence Seaway in 1950, the childhood home was moved from Farran's Point to Morrisburg, Ontario. In 1954, Mr. and Mrs. Daley, Gwen and her two oldest children Terry and Ramona, made a nostalgic trip to the picturesque home before its transplant.



Maurice Thevenay, Bertha Thevenay, Lily Cuendent, Marthe Cuendet, Charles Cuendet.



George Daley.

After serving in Europe during World War I also as a Guard at Mohns during the Armistice Treaty truce — George harkened to “Go West, young man, Go West”. Thus as a banker he ultimately arrived in Calgary in 1920.



Isobel Daley.

Isobel Compton Whitney, who held a position with the United Farmers of Alberta was later to become his wife. She was born Oct 7, 1897 at Kitchener Ontario, to Ellen and Benjamin T. Whitney of Bow Island, Alberta. The Whitneys were prominent ranchers of that area.

Ellen, accompanied by her mother and brother, arrived in Southern Alberta from England in 1886 via the first through train across Canada. At Dunmore they transferred to the narrow gauge railway to continue their trip to Lethbridge. During her younger years at Cowes Ranch, on the South Saskatchewan River, near Bow Island, Isobel received much of her schooling with governesses or at the one room school six miles away. She completed her education and earned a music degree at St. Hilda's College, Calgary. An accomplished musician, the teachers at Norma School had an assistant for Christmas Concerts and Our Lady of the Assumption Roman Catholic Church, Sylvan Lake, had an organist until the time of her death in September 1975. She was a member of the Catholic Women's League, the Ladies Auxiliary of the Canadian Legion and a prime organizer and worker for the Catholic Youth Camp, Our Lady of Victory on Gull Lake.

In Aug., 1924, as a bride, Isobel joined George at Sylvan Lake, living the first winter east of town, on the Thevenez farm. For a time they resided at Jarvis Bay on the Petro (later Barker) farm. Later they purchased a small farm on Highway II, one mile east of the town of Sylvan Lake. They lived here until shortly before Mr. Daley's passing on March 10, 1970, at Colonel Belcher Hospital, Calgary. A small home was obtained at the corner of 47A Ave. and 50 Street in Sylvan Lake where Mrs. Daley continued to reside until her passing.

The country homesite consisted of only 80 acres with very little under cultivation. After leaving the bank, George helped supplement the farm income by doing various auditor and bookkeeping assignments. The main source of farm revenue was derived from a summer dairy for vacationers that lived in the numerous cottages located along the east side of the lake. The days were long and filled with hard work, as the entire family helped with the dairy.



Hunting trip — George Daley top right — 1935.

In the late 1930's, Mr. Daley became associated with a livestock dealership of which he eventually became owner and kept until his retirement in the mid 60's. It covered a buying area from Burnt Lake to Rocky, with hogs being shipped out via CPR every Wednesday morning.

The Daleys were always willing to extend a helping hand to any in need. Frequently the local sports for the young were promoted and supported by Mr. and Mrs. Daley, as well as the encouragement to keep the Boy Scout movement active. During the depression years when many moved from the city to the less expensive living at Sylvan Lake, Gwen remembers many were helped with produce from their farm. Her mother and Dad with the help of the children, spent many long hours planting and tending a much larger garden than they needed so the less fortunate would benefit. The vegetables were delivered to the other families by hand, sled or horseback. On one occasion potatoes were dug during a cold October rain storm to

help fill a boxcar that was leaving next A.M. from the CPR siding for destination in drought ridden southern Alberta. Remembrances are clear, too, of some meatless evening meals because supper's chicken was, at the last minute, relegated elsewhere.

The doors were never locked and in the mornings the family would often rise to find a guest or guests asleep around the fire. For the people west of Sylvan Lake the trip to Red Deer or beyond was difficult. Horses were slow and cars were unpredictable, sometimes leaving frustrated and weary travellers on our doorstep.

Unwanted garments, from friends and relatives arrived by parcel post. Mrs. Daley would make them over to give more years of wear, or take the better portions to construct an extra quilt.

The Daley family consisted of two sons and two daughters. Gwendolyn Anne — born May 18, 1925, at Bow Island; Benjamin George born August 18, 1926 at Sylvan Lake. Doreen Elizabeth born May 7, 1928 at Bow Island and Timothy Thomas born July 17, 1933 at Sylvan Lake.

Their formal education began at the New Norma School, with high school graduation from Sylvan Lake High School. In 1946 Gwen graduated from the Misericordia School of Wilcox, Saskatchewan and St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish, N.S.

The teachers of the local one room schools were a dedicated group. Not only did they play janitor by spending early morning and late evening hours at school to keep the coal burning furnace stoked up to provide warmth for the class hours, but they spent many hours giving of themselves to enrich the lives of their pupils. While clustered near the hot air registers the girls learned to knit and crochet — some of the finished products were later entered in the school fairs — as winners too.

Tim now resides in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia with wife Dolores and their daughters, Denise, Krista and Alicia.

Doreen and husband Dan Mahoney reside on the old homeplace. Their children Patricia, Doreen and Michael are near.

George passed away Dec. 1975 at Foleyet, Ontario. Widow Shirley and their four children, Sherin, Joanne, Jamie and Tamie live in the Vancouver area.

Gwen, the eldest daughter of George Daley married Milton Sirois on Feb. 7, 1948. They moved to the United States in 1951, and now, after many years of travelling with the US Federal Aviation Admin., make their home in Federal Way just south of Seattle, Washington. They have four children and two grandchildren.

Terrence Eldon and wife Mary with Pierre and Melanie reside at Maple Ridge, B.C.

Ramona with husband Anthony Gaffney reside in Kennewich, Wash. Anthony has a daughter, Marah.

Dale and Debra have residences in San Mateo, California and Federal Way, Washington.

Wayne entered the US Merchant Marine Academy, July, 1980 for a four years course in Maritime Engineering. Like Dale, he graduated from Taipei American School in Taiwan while his Dad was on an assignment with the Tiawan Government. Terry graduated from Gonzaga Prep., Spokane, Washington and Romana from Bishop McGuinness High School in Oklahoma City.

Among the cherished highlites of growing up in the Norma-Sylvan Lake Community.

1. Miss Kenny, teacher at the old Norma School sending three or four of the older girl students to take Gwen and George, then pre-schoolers to the end of school year picnic. Those girls were so pretty in their new flowered dresses skipping down the railroad tracks to the school.

2. In 1935 Miss Elizabeth Kask (now Mrs. Ernest Hughes, Burnaby, B.C.) neighbor across the highway and teacher at Norma — with a brand new car speeding down the gravelled road at 35 mph taking the pupils to Red Deer to see a whale on display at the CPR station. Thrill!!!

3. The dear elderly Mrs. Soderman trekking from the Poplar Ridge area to Sylvan Lake to give music lessons.

4. Mrs. Wilkinson's shining and spotless Antler Lodge kitchen with the telephone switchboard in an adjoining room.

5. The welcomed bus rides Mr. Sorenson would give the weary students. Not only welcome in the cold but also in warm weather when the dry gravelly road was dusty.

6. Mr. Joe Patton's airplane rides from the Tanche farm, later the pontoon planes that landed on the lake, the trainers at RAF Penhold and the USAF BP4 cargo transports on northward flights to Yukon-Edmonton bases.

7. The melodious sounds of yodeling — the Swiss Shank Brothers were beckoning their cows home from the pasture.

8. The Indians on the migrating trek between Hobbema Indian Reservation and their summer camping grounds west of Rocky Mountain House, often camped overnight across the creek from the house. Sometimes the gift of gratitude would include hand made mocassins (beaded or plain). With slip on rubbers over them, one experienced nothing of the cold but warmth on the frigid walks to school, but how our pride was shaken when we were expected to wear them to the classroom — so unfashionable for

that period and rather saturated with the tanning odor of smoke. Nowadays many of the young would relish a pair of such origin.

9. On May 24th, Doreen, George, and Gwen walked to the Demas home (north on 3rd Meridian Road and then East, probably behind Bernard Sjare's home) a short 5-6 miles to spend the day. We returned home via horse drawn democrat with the entire Demas family after seeing the movie "Alice in Wonderland" at the new Sylvan Lake Theatre.

10. BPOE, the Elks had a hall on the lake drive West of Main Street. Mr. Daley, a member, often took the children to participate in special programs. The evening he was a "blackie" for a minstrel show was an unexpected surprise to his young fans. Mr. Daley had a great sense of humor, enjoyed story telling and singing — a witty, pleasant person.

11. Mr. and Mrs. Chambon, neighbors to the east who were like second parents to us.

12. The Sisters from St. Joseph Convent in Red Deer, enriching our lives with their friendship and prayers.

13. Sylvan Lake when it had wide, clean beautiful sandy beaches and shallow water — a real play ground.

14. The peace and tranquility of the area before "modernization" took over.

We, of the era of the pre 20's-30's, are thankful to have experienced a natural resource in its God given splendor.

Dath, Nestor

The Dath Family, consisting of Mr. Dath, his wife, son Fernand and daughter Marthe came to Canada from France in 1906.

They came to the French Colony in the Norma District, east of Sylvan Lake. Many French people came there to live in the colony, only to find they were not able to cope with farming in Canada or to accept the rules set out by their leader, Dr. Tanche.



Fernand Dath — Marthe — Mrs. Dath and Solange.

By 1913 the Dath's had bought a farm and their second daughter, Solange was born there. Mr. Dath sold this farm to Charles Cuendet soon after and the family moved to Saskatchewan to farm. He returned to the Norma District in 1930 leaving his son Fernand to farm in Saskatchewan. Incidentally Fernand helped haul lumber with a team from Red Deer to Sylvan Lake to build the first Catholic Church.

Marthe and Solange live at SE-34-38-1-W5th. They are both very talented, Marthe has done much crochet and needle work — making baby sweater sets etc. Many around dressed their infants in Marthe's creations. Solange is a very good artist, she has painted many pictures.



Solange Dath with her painting.

Mr. Dath was a miner in France and also mined in Frank, B.C. He was an ardent gardener and a devoted family man. He passed away in 1941. Mrs. Dath following in 1966.

Ellerby, John and Donna and family

We bought the Coward acreage in 1975, built a house on it and moved in August 1976. This land was originally subdivided off the quarter belonging to the Ward Family south of the tracks. We are north of the tracks. We don't know the names of any previous owners.

The Ellerby family originally came from Ontario to the Veteran area where they homesteaded. We farmed there until 1959 at which time we moved to

Edmonton. In 1960, Donna Wenger, formerly from Veteran but presently in Medical Technology training in Edmonton and I were married. In 1961 I secured a position with Alberta Gas Trunkline and we moved to Alix, Alberta where we lived until 1969. Here our three oldest children were born, Laurel in 1961, Timothy in 1963, and Trevor in 1965. In 1969 the company transferred us to Bentley where we resided until 1976 and our move to the Norma District. During our years in Bentley another daughter came to our home, Lisa, born in 1970.

The acreage, when we purchased it, had a trailer stall and all utilities on it but not a house. We sold our house in Bentley and built one here. This house was built mostly by ourselves and the help of friends from time to time. There was a small barn and some existing corrals which we have remodelled and added to, now serving us as a small feedlot. We still have some grassland in the Veteran area so run a few head of cattle summer and winter between the two places.

We were very active in Church activities while in Bentley and retained this association after moving to this district, spending a lot of time with friends and at church functions in Bentley. Our children attend school in Sylvan Lake and got involved in school sports and community hockey so we have spent quite a bit of time at hockey games. We have enjoyed our rural home and working together to build it up.

As a family we enjoy travelling and have gone together to Niagra Falls, Disney Land, Mexico, Alaska the Arctic and Hawaii, plus numerous shorter trips in Canada and the USA. Laurel was also able to go to Britain with the Sylvan Lake High School in 1979.

Since moving to the acreage the family has begun to grow up with the oldest in College in Red Deer and the Second one in Bible College in Sask.

Our history in this area is very limited but it has been a beneficial move for all of us.

Pat Fadden

Born in Red Deer, September 9th, 1921. Raised by grandparents William and Annie Prevo. Lived the first 20 years in the Norma District, a number of years on what is known as the Peter Prevo farm and then moved to the ½ section across the road which belonged to Bill Prevo.

I attended Norma School from 1928 to 1938. My teachers were Miss Kenny, Miss Kask and Miss Sjare.

After my grandfather passed away my grandmother and I farmed the place until December, 1941, at which time I joined the Canadian Army. Before going overseas in 1943, I met Vivian Johnson of Sylvan Lake, and we were married in August 1945.

Our first child Gayle Patricia was born in Medi-



Gail, Vivian, Pat and Barry Fadden.

cine Hat, Oct. 24, 1947. Our second child, Barry Dale was born in Chilliwack, B.C. on March 13, 1951. David James was born on Oct. 1, 1958.

Gayle was married in Germany in 1968 while we were stationed there. She has two children, Shelley and Heath and resides at present in Markham, Ontario. Barry is still single and lives at home. He attended Simon Fraser University for a while and last year he attended a Bible Training School and is presently preparing for a ministry in counselling. David attended a Christian High School in Caronport, Sask. As he was planning to return to school in the fall he couldn't due to a pain in his leg. Doctors diagnosed it as a malignant tumor so from that time on Dave's battle with cancer began. In Jan. 1978 Dave passed away at the age of 19. In spite of the pain and suffering he endured he enjoyed life to the fullest never losing his faith in God.

I joined the Royal Canadian Army Service Corps in January 5, 1942, served in the Training Centre Band at Red Deer for one year, then took Basic Training at Camrose, Alberta for three months. I returned to Red Deer for Advanced Training in Transport.



David Fadden.

I was posted to England in Aug. 1943. Two months later I went to Sicily with the 1st Army Service Corps. In January of 1944 I was transferred to 5 Div. Troops in Italy and served with the Unit through Italy, France and Germany until June, 1945, at which time I returned to Canada.

I was discharged Dec. 22, 1945 and lived in Red Deer for about 11 months. I re-enlisted in the Royal Canadian Engineers, and served in Canada, Europe and the Middle East until retirement in Feb. 1972.

My career in the Armed Forces took us to many parts of Canada as well as Germany and the Middle East. I qualified as a Civil and Structural Engineering Technician while at the School of Military Engineering at Chilliwack, B.C.

One of the most important decisions in my life took place in May, 1955. I became a Born Again Believer, and served the Lord in a number of ways in the various places we were stationed. We usually worked in the Sunday School of the army bases, as well as home Bible studies and I was a lay minister as well.

Several years after resigning from the forces we joined a Christian Organization called Campus Crusade for Christ and remained in that Ministry for four years. After that I served as an Interim Pastor for one year in Coquitlam, B.C. In 1979, we attended a Bible Training School and served as Visitation Pastor for the same time.

This year (1980) I've taken extensive training for Christian Education and presently I'm the Principal of an Accelerated Christian Education School (A.C.E.) Vivian is the School Secretary.

Flater (Louis) **by Edith Flater**

Louis Flater was born in Chatham Centre, Ontario in 1894. When he was 3 years old his parents and his little sister and he moved to North Dakota. There the father farmed, carpentered, and was a blacksmith. When Louis was 18 years old he decided to move away to a new land, Alberta, to take up a homestead at a place between Metiskow and Czar on Horseshoe Lake. A potash plant was later built on the site, the potash being taken from the lake.

With the help of neighbors he used oxen to plow up the land. He raised cattle and milked cows. The country suffered many dry years, hail storms and poor prices, but it was interesting living in the country with its social events, hospitality and sharing that was practised by these homesteaders. Money was scarce, but hopes were always high. Louis' mother and foster sister Blanche Turner, came to live with him while his father finished up affairs in North Dakota and joined them later.



Louis and Edith Flater.

In 1922 Louis married Edith Peterson from Hardisty. She, being a teacher, came to Metiskow to teach school. She had come from Minnesota in 1915, finished her high school at Hardisty and her teacher training at Camrose Normal School. The second year they were married a terrible hail storm came along ruining their good crops, battering leaves off the trees and even killing birds and gophers. To their home had come a baby boy whom they named Raymond, to help make life enjoyable. Louis also took a new job.

The manager of a new cheese factory came out to see if he would drive a milk route to the cheese factory. He drove horses and a wagon, which meant he had to get up at 2 a.m. and milk 23 cows and get started on a 17 mile trip to Metiskow picking up milk along the way in order to arrive by 9 a.m. with the milk. It was hard work but it was a job and he was grateful to get it.

They suffered a number of dry years, another hail storm and a time when cattle were hard to sell. In order to get his herd sold off he learned the butcher business from a qualified butcher and had a small truck and a large meat box and started a long meat selling route from door to door as well as working with a beef ring.

In 1936 he moved his family to Lougheed. He now had 3 children, Raymond, Verna (Mrs. T. Nielsen) and Arthur. Then in 1945 he made another move, to Red Deer, spending one year in Poplar Ridge at the Soderman place. By this time Raymond had finished high school and was in the Air Force. Verna had become a teacher. The following year they moved to the "Prevo Place" as it was called, and made their home there. While there Louis had the misfortune to have his back broken by a falling tree while clearing land. This prompted Edith to start teaching again and she taught at Withrow, Old Cen-

treville and Norma and then later at the Training School which is now Michener Centre. Then one more move took them to Burbank out of Blackfalds, in 1959.

Louis' father had died and was buried at Czar, his mother died in Loughheed and was buried at Czar.

Now time has slipped along and we (Louis and Edith) live in an apartment in a Senior Citizens Parkview Manor. All three children are married and we now have 9 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

Now in the late years of our life we find much to thank the Lord for in these past years.

Faucher

by Ada (Faucher) Hagerman

Adelard and Victoria Faucher came from Saginaw, Michigan in 1898, with six children ages 15 years to 5 months.



The Adelard Faucher Family. Standing L. to R.: Elmer Faucher, Nellie Mohring, Arthur Faucher and Henryette Lachapelle. Sitting L. to R.: Adelard, Ada Hagerman, Louise Jasper, Nina Bradshaw and Victoria Faucher.

There were twenty-one in the group that came. They brought two carloads of effects, a team of horses, two cows and a small lumber mill.

Mr. Louselle was a harness and shoe maker by trade. Dad was a carpenter with a good set of tools. Mother was a tailor by trade in Montreal. Her sewing machine was going till the wee hours of the morning, sewing for everyone.

The settlers came in fall. Dad built a house 20 x 20 where the first cottages are after you cross the bridge on No. 20 Highway going south. Mr. Lindholm kept the stock for the first winter but the following spring they all died of swamp fever.

On May 10, 1899, Dad filed for a homestead, SE ¼ 10-39-1-W5th. To homestead was to bet the government ten dollars you would clear and break five

acres a year for three years, or give up your homestead. My Dad and brother Arthur cleared the land and exchanged work with neighbors to have it broken.

The men all went to work in the lumber mills in the winter, leaving mother and children at home to take care of things. The men's wages — \$30.00 per month plus room and board. Dad sent \$15.00 a month home and kept \$15.00 so he could buy a team of horses. It was a wonderful day when Dad came home with two sorrel mares, Mix and Babe. Those two mares lived to be 21 and 23 years old and had fourteen colts each.

Soon we started in cattle, pigs and chickens. Dad put in an ice well and covered it with straw to keep our meat. There was no season for deer so the men got one a week to keep our neighbors in meat. The lake was full of fish, rabbits and birds were plentiful, so we never went hungry.

Our first house on the farm was made of logs 24' x 24', divided with white sheets. The floor was planks. Mother would pour boiling water on wood ashes to make lye to scrub the floor to keep it yellow.

The Finnish people came in the early 1900s. They were wonderful neighbors, and hard workers. Every one worked on the roads to pay their taxes. The winding trails and corduroy (logs bound together with willow branches across swampland) soon gave way to straight roads.

It was all open range so each farmer had a different sounding bell on his milk cows to know which were his.

The first grain separator here was owned by Walsh Petro, Pete Herman, Pete Walters and Ed Faucher. It was driven by four teams of horses going around and around. Peter Prevo sat in the middle with a fur coat and cap and armed with a whip to keep up the speed. All the wheat was bagged as it was threshed. There were ninety pounds in each bag. These were then loaded into the wagon. The oats were kept for feed to go along with green feed and wild hay. Feed was always plentiful.

After four years the same four men bought a Stickney Engine to run the separator. It took a big four horse team to pull it from the farm to field. All the grain was stacked in the yards so the straw was handy. If threshing was finished by Christmas they did well.

At first you could only raise draft horses, Percheron and Clydesdale. Then Bill Herman bought "Black Knight", so we raised saddle horses and drivers.

In 1908 we bought a purebred Ayrshire cow. Walsh Petro bought quite a few Ayrshires so we soon had good dairy cows. That same year Dad and I put in

three acres of potatoes and made enough money from them to buy seven purebred white pigs.

Each fall a cattle buyer came out and bought what cattle we had for sale. These had to be taken to Red Deer so we had a cattle drive. Cattle were gathered from here to Poplar Ridge. There were few fences so we had to have plenty of riders on each side. There were houses along the river so we had to be careful that some of our long horns didn't go through a window or up on the veranda. Then they had to be brand inspected and counted for numbers bought from each party. Then we could go home.

Dad finished our new house in 1910 with a real living room and five bedrooms. It was made of logs, large and comfortable. The War of 1914-1918 seemed to be the start of large get-togethers to raise money, for the Red Cross. Before that we did have house parties.

Dad never owned a car and mother never owned a washing machine. For six years mother made 300 lbs of flour each year into bread. Dad built a dutch oven that held 72 loaves and she filled it three times with bread and once with buns. The railroaders came and got bread and Mother delivered to the campers at night in a buckboard during the holidays. After the holidays she supplied only the two railroads, two hotels and the few people who lived in Sylvan Lake with bread.

Uncle Walsh and the men built a root cellar on his place to keep all our vegetables fresh until the next crop was ready to use.

Our family were some of the first children to go to the Finland School, later called Norma. Later we finished our schooling in Red Deer.

May I now say it has been wonderful to see such an advancement in one life time. I would like to thank my Dad and Mom for being such wonderful parents. Also my brothers and sisters for being such good pals to the only Canadian child in our family.

Our Family included the following children:

Nellie who was 15 when we came to Sylvan Lake. Later she married William Mohring and they lived in Red Deer until Bill passed away. She then moved to B.C. with her daughter. They had two children, Rhonda, who still lives in B.C. and Jim who was killed in the Second World War.

Arthur was thirteen when we came here. He helped Dad clear the land, also worked in Red Deer. He homesteaded in the Peace River District in 1915, taking a car load of effects with him. He lived there until his passing.

Louise was ten when we arrived. She trained under Dr. Grant as his nurse, continuing this work for the rest of her life. She was married to Paul Jasper

who passed away ten years later. In March, 1980 Louise passed away.

Henryette was seven when we arrived. She was a clerk in stores in Red Deer and Calgary. At 18 she went to Montreal where she attended school for six years. She became a secretary for a lawyer. At forty she married and had one child. She was killed by a careless driver in Ottawa.

Elmer was five when we came to Sylvan Lake. He was not very strong so he went on to school finishing his grade 12. He taught school until he went overseas in the First World War. Later he bought a quarter section in the Durham district. He passed away at the age of 27.

Nina was only five months old when we came here. She got her grade 10 education before going to clerk in a store in Red Deer. At 21 years she married Leonard Bradshaw. He was an engineer employed by the mines at Wayne and Eleexo. Later they moved to Edmonton where he was head engineer for the City Dairy. He died while living in Edmonton and Nina passed away in 1976.

Mother passed away in 1941 and Dad in 1966.

In 1918 the Flu hit the district very hard. Henry Weber and Ada Faucher took it on Monday. Mr. Faucher drove in to Red Deer the same day for drugs. All there was to treat it was quinine pills and liquor. The doctor gave Dad jars of pills and a case of liquor (16 quarts) to take home. He told Dad to build some rough boxes and line them with white cotton. There were seven died in our district in one week.

Ada — my history is under Hagerman.

Vern Furnald

In 1938 I bought my farm the NW ¼-1-39-1-W5, near where the Prevo Elevator was. The land belonged to Peter Meintre, who had never lived on it and had passed away while living in Red Deer. I bought the farm from W. E. Pane, Administrators, for \$2,500.00 which might buy 3 acres now.

Due to the war years I was frozen to my job in the Oil Fields of Turner Valley.

We had a cottage at Sylvan Lake and for many summers our family holidayed there. We moved in the spring of 1946 to the farm. Merle Ramsay rented the land and I helped him while on holidays at Sylvan. We cleared 50 acres next to the track. I gave Merle two crops to break the land. A lot of people burned wood so I got it hauled away.

We moved from Turner Valley with a tractor pulling a trailer that contained a chicken house and chickens, and one horse. Driving through Calgary was just like the Hill Billies, the chickens even laid a few eggs on the way. Rose, and I, Jim, Verna and Alvin arrived at Sylvan Lake and lived in the cabin



Vern and Rose Furnald.

for three months. We drilled a well on the farm, picked a building site, and soon began. We lived in a granary one summer, then moved into what is now the shop. After stump blowing, a saw mill, milk cows, pigs and things, we started building with the help of Merle Ramsey, Ben Resiwig, George Coverdale, and Mr. and Mrs. Rozier.

Building material was hard to get, due to the war. I had to pick up a few bags of cement at a time where ever I could get them, the same with plaster board.

Barley and rye were our main crops. Harvesting was a community project. The days were long and much physical effort so the food was prepared and consumed in great amounts. Lunches were sent to the fields. Later when combines were introduced some of the comradeship and excitement went out of the harvest. Haying was also a project that all the neighbors took part in.

Deep freezers weren't around so smoking of hams and bacon, canning the beef and chickens plus the garden vegetables, pickling, jelly and jam making were the order of the day.

After 3 or 4 years of hail, I returned to work in the oil fields, coming home on all days off and taking holidays at seeding and harvest times. Alvin and Rose did most of the farm work. Jim was in School at Norma and Verna away working.

The early years were hard years, but the company of good friends and neighbors, whist drives, concerts, and dances at Norma School and Aspelund Hall left us many good memories of those years too.

Rose was the family manager. She made the

dollars stretch to cover all our family needs. She liked cooking, curling, needlework, cards and dances and most of all visiting. The house and garden were her domain. In 1966, after a long battle with heart disease, she passed away; the neighborhood had lost a good friend.

Alvan Wilson from Gladys Ridge, near High River had been living with us in Turner Valley. I had a dance orchestra. I played the violin, and Alvan came and played with the group. He worked in the Valley and with another fellow, boarded with us. Housing was hard to get as the gas and oil boom was on. Alvan was in the Air Force as a bandsman and is very musical. He moved with us to the farm helping with all the chores and farm work. While I was away Alvan met the Bahlers and Longacres, Louis and Flora. They started up a band and played together for years. Alvan belonged to the Legion in Sylvan Lake and enjoyed his curling with the farmers. In June 1968, Alvan surprised us and everyone by taking the Big Step and marrying Aunt Marge Gates of Claresholm. They still live there.



Jim Furnald.

Verna and Jim walked to Norma School. Later Jim lived in the Red Deer Composite High School dormitories. One of his classmates and room mate, was Jim Ward — the Mutt and Jeff of the Community. Bea Ward and Mom took turns fighting roads to pick up the kids on Friday and return them to school Sunday night. This is no chore now, but in the late 1940's with our roads and lack of money, and one farm truck, it was a feat in itself. The school buses came to Red Deer and that was a bonus, so the teenage society moved back home. Jim graduated from Red Deer Comp in 1956, then worked as a truck driver. He married Audrey Halverson in 1960. They have two children Grant and Bonny. Jim has been with Alberta Wheat Pool since 1960 and is now a Public Relations Officer for them in Medicine Hat.

Verna rode her horse or bike to school in Sylvan Lake for grades 11 and 12. She parked the horse in the barn for the day until school was out. Often in the spring when the slush flew from the gravel road the horse would go one way and Verna the other and the horse would be home long before her. Mr. Bert Cody was one of her teachers who spent extra time teaching and changing the attitude of a non-inspired student.



Verna Furnald.

Verna graduated from nursing in 1954 from Brandon Mental Hospital. She worked in Michigan until moving home in 1959, and started work at the Bentley hospital where she stayed for ten years.

In 1960 the family befriended a very homesick girl, Sheila Muzychla who had come to work at the Bentley Hospital. Sheila still lives with Verna and me and has become part of our family and Norma District. Sheila and Verna are both nursing at the Rimbey Hospital. Both girls have many interests, they both travel a great deal, enjoy camping, fishing, photography and music.

After I retired at age 70 from the oil fields I stayed at home, working in my shop building and repairing machinery for myself and my neighbors. In 1973 I sold the farm and at 85, I still enjoy working with my machinery and music.

The Will Gardners

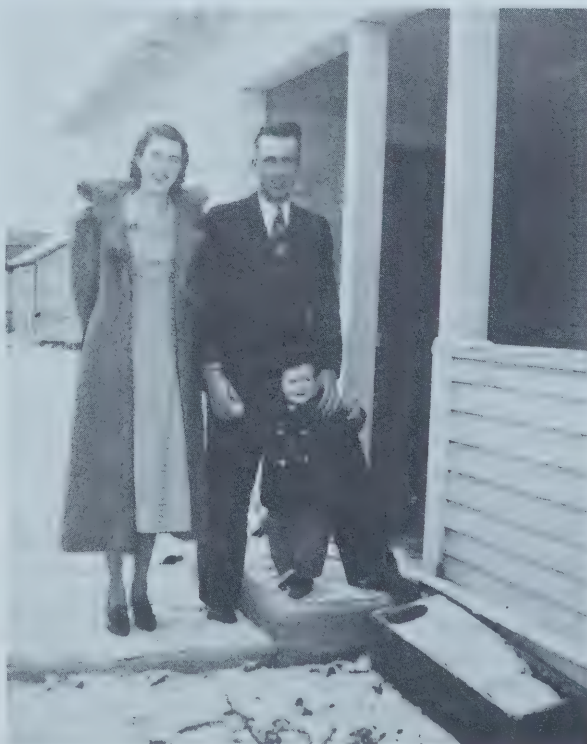
Norma and Donald McLeod

PT NW 34-38-1-W5

Dad and mother, Will and Lee Gardner homesteaded in 1905 east of Vulcan in the Ried Hill District. They had four children, Kenneth now living in California, Gordon at Vulcan, Norma in Maple Ridge, B.C. and Bill at New Westminster B.C.



Will and Lee Gardner and grandson, Ronald.



Jean, Gordon, and Ralph Gardner.



Constance Gardner.

In the spring of 1935 along with their son Gordon they moved to the Kask farm which they rented from John Kask.

Dad and Gordon farmed the Kask farm until mother passed away in Jan. 1946. Then Dad and Gordon left the farm. Dad moved in with us until his death in May, 1957 at the age of 83.

Gordon and his wife Jean moved back to the Vulcan district where they farmed until about 1976. They are retired now and living in Vulcan.

Mother and Dad were very active workers in the Pentecostal Church in Sylvan Lake. Jean Gardner was the pianist at the Pentecostal Church for some years.

Gaukler — Joe and Vera

Joe Gaukler was born in Clare City, North Dakota March 21, 1913. He moved with his parents, Joseph and Barbara (Funk) Gaukler and his 2 brothers and 5 sisters to Mantador, North Dakota. Here the boys and their dad farmed until coming to Canada in the spring of 1930 to farm near Joffre. That spring they bought wheat at \$1.50 a bushel. By fall the price had dropped. During these depression years wheat sold as low as 27 cents, barley for 7 cents and oats for 5 cents per bushel. Eggs were 3 cents per dozen.

It sure was a good thing country dances were 35 cents for men and a cake from the girl friend. Other entertainment was playing softball and picnics in the summer and skating and sleigh riding and putting on plays in winter. There were always a lot of young people around.

In 1939 Joe married Vera Fox, daughter of Herbert and Florence (Osguthorpe) Fox of the Joffre district.



Vera and Joe Gaukler taken Centennial Year, 1967.

My family came from the dried out area of Consort, close to the Sask. border. I have three sisters and five brothers.

Joe and I started our lives together farming at Joffre. In 1951 we bought the Broderson farm, E ½-36-38-1-W5, and moved there in November. The first three years we were here we broke approximately 180 acres and picked roots to no end. The crops increased tremendously.

I guess I wasn't so good at driving a tractor to pull the binder. Joe's hat was flying at me when I was supposed to stop. But there were good times too.

Bahler's farm is just across the fence and Lila always brought us lunch when she brought Sam's so we could stop for a short visit.

We would look over Sam's field many times to see duck hunters carrying the swaths to make a hide-out. These piles of swathed grain would get wet then Sam would have to burn them.

Joe and I had planned to build a new house in 5 years after we moved here but it was 10 years before our dream came true. The house that was here was built in about 1914 by Archie Smith and Mr. Rousseau, a two story with a 12 foot attic due to a quarrel of carpenters. Joe and I both worked at Sim's Auction Mart for many years.

We have three daughters. Rosalie married Elmer Golder of Lacombe. They have one daughter, Charlene, who excels in sports, and one son, Tom. Rosalie taught school for some years and Elmer is area manager for Border Paving. They sold their home in Lacombe this fall and built a new one at Hinton where they are now living. Charlene is taking grade 11 and Tom is in grade 10.

Janet married Fred Clark of Vancouver. They live in a trailer here. They have four boys, Gregg, Brent, Jeffrey and Tyler. Fred is a splicer for A.G.T. and



The Gaukler Family — 1980. Back L. to R.: Dale and Joanne Stafford, Elmer, Rosalie and Tom Golder, Janet and Fred Clark, Charlene Golder, and Jeff Clark. Front: Gregg Clark, Vera, holding Tyler Clark, Brent Clark.

Janet teaches ceramic classes at Sylvan Lake. She is a business machines operator.

Joanne married Dale Stafford of Innisfail. Dale is an Alberta Brand Inspector working out of Burnt Lake Auction Mart. He worked in Edmonton before coming here. Joanne is a pharmacist in Bishop's Drug store. They came to live with me when Joe passed away in 1979.

I still live on the farm. We keep a few cows and do the haying but rent out the cultivated land. I work two days a week at Burnt Lake Auction Mart. I enjoy being with people. We know that "to have neighbors you have to be one" which has been so very true in our lives. I enjoy being a part of our community and church. Working with friends and neighbors is as important as socializing.

Our farm was homesteaded Aug. 9, 1898 by Arthur Paradis. Lewis Prevo and Hans Broderson were other owners.

German, Dick

Dick German was born in Lloydminster, Sask., in 1921, the son of Robert and Alice German. They were natives of England. In 1947, they moved to Sylvan Lake and Dick worked with G.S.I. Seismec Company.

I, Betty Dobbs, was born in 1929, daughter of Lester and Ruth Dobbs. They lived in the Gilby district north of Eckville and moved to Sylvan in 1947.

Dick and I were married in Eckville in October 1948. Dick worked for Garrity and Baker Drilling

Company and we lived in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta for the next few years. A daughter, Wanda Darlene, was born in 1950 and Wendy Kathleen in 1951, and Shirley Marie in 1957.



The German Family. Shirley, Betty, Wanda, Dick and Wendy.

Dick bought his own seismec rig in 1952 and we continued moving around Alberta until 1955 when we settled permanently in the town of Sylvan. Wanda and Wendy attended school in Sylvan Lake and for six months were bussed to the Norma School while the new Sylvan Lake School was being built.

Dick started drilling water wells in 1957 and bought a quarter section of land from Jack Sunell in Feb., 1963. The buildings were old and beyond repair. We moved the house, to be used for a shop, and built a new house. We moved in Sept. 1963 and the girls rode the school bus to Sylvan. They each had a saddle horse and spent many hours riding around the district. Two of these old retired horses are still with us.

When we moved to the farm the only phone line was a small private line that Bob McNamarra had built so we applied to A.G.T. and an eight cable line was installed. Dick helped organize getting the natural gas to this district in 1968. In 1974 he worked with a group to arrange for rural fire protection.

In 1973 he quit the water well drilling business and sold his rigs to Darold Jones and Cliff Richmond. Dick continues with his Seismic business and also farms our land.

Wanda and Wendy worked at Hannigans each summer for many years. Wanda went to Red Deer Composite High School for grade eleven and twelve, Wendy took grade twelve there.

Wanda moved to Calgary to work and married

Calvin Metcalf. They live in Calgary and have three children; Jason Lee born in 1971; Tara Jane born in 1972; and Sean Rennie born in 1974.

Wendy attended Mount Royal College in Calgary, then joined the Canadian Armed Forces in 1970, as a physical education instructor. She has been stationed in many places in Canada. The last three years she has resided in Edmonton.

Shirley attended Sylvan Lake School, graduating in 1974. She attended Red Deer College for two years and the U. of A. for two years. She graduated with a Bachelor of Education degree in 1978. She has taught school at John Wilson Elementary in Innisfail for two years.

Gonsky, Louis and Anna

Louis Gonsky was born in 1896 in Brendaceyca, a small village in the country of Austria. He lived on a small farm and orchard with his parents, five sisters and one brother.

In 1912, this young man of sixteen decided to seek his fortune in the great land of Canada. Leaving behind his family and homeland. Louis joined his Aunt and Uncle and many others who were migrating from the bleak times in Europe. Crossing Canada, Louis and his Aunt and Uncle made their first home in Medicine Hat, Alberta. Here he found his first

employment with the CPR, building rail beds and later as a fireman on the steam locomotives. Through the following years Louis travelled about Alberta and British Columbia farming and logging.

In 1924, Louis settled in Three Hills where he worked in the coal mines. That year he sent a passport and money to a young lady in Kalicev, a neighboring village of Brendaceyca. This adventurous young lady, Anna, was to leave her mother and three brothers to join this man in Canada as his prospective bride. Anna was born in 1902 and their families had known one another well.

In May 1925, Louis and Anna were married in Three Hills. Later in the year they moved to Tawatinaw, Alberta where they acquired their first homestead. Together, side by side through the years, with the help of two horses and a plow, they were to clear a hundred acres and to realize their dream of owning their own land and farm.

Also, during the years on the homestead, Louis and Anna's four children arrived. Their first born, a son Joseph (Joe) was born in 1926, then Mike in 1928. Next their only daughter Olga arrived in 1931 with William (Bill) completing the family in 1938.

Throughout these early years the children remember the family and neighbors working together to build their home and community. It was the 1930's and at times things were hard; when nature dealt a blow to the farmers, Louis would leave his dear family to work in the coal mines of Alberta to earn a little money so they could continue to farm the next year. 1939 was a big year for the family for Louis bought a 4-door, Model A Ford, one of the first vehicles in the area.

With the turn of the decade, Louis and Anna decided to put the homestead up for sale. There had been too many early killing frosts and it was harder and harder to support their growing children. Listing with the Rollis Agencies of Red Deer, they sold their homestead and bought a new farm from the Ernie Wills family in the Norma School District. Thus, in 1940, Louis and Anna and their four children packed their possessions on their Model A and hired a truck and made their way to the Parkland. With mixed emotions, the Gonsky's had left their homestead and friends of so many years to come to 120 acres of land, a small four room house with a roof that leaked, a barn and a small chicken house. But this farm had a well with a pump to replace the bucket for drawing water. A delight to all, for they could easily use all the water they needed. Soon with determination that was a part of them both, Louis and Anna had the entire family working together to build their new home. And in not long, thanks to their many new friends



Anna and Louis Gonsky. October, 1976 on Louis' 80th birthday.



Mike Gonsky — June 1947.



Olga and Bill Gonsky — June 1947.



Joe Gonsky with Model "A" — 1945.

and neighbors, the Gonsky's were a part of the Norma and District community.

In 1940, Mike and Olga entered the one room school at Norma. Bill was too young and Joe decided that he was too old to return to school, stayed home to help on the farm. Mike and Olga made their way 3½ miles to school by horseback or walking. The school had about 30 students who were in grades one to nine and who were all under the able supervision of Miss Benyon. She was a teacher admired by all of her students for her stern fairness and sports interest.

In 1945, Bill Gonsky entered the Norma School. Other teachers the Gonsky children had to guide their learning were Sue Park, Miss Bailey, Mrs. Gibson, Mrs. Lea and Darrel Hem.

No matter how well the teachers were liked or respected, that one room school was often the scene of many pranks. Many an owl was placed on the teacher's chair, or maybe a mouse placed in her desk

drawer. Or a sure thing to send many of the girls into screams of fright was to turn a bunch of mice loose into the class. Another well loved prank which was sure to divert all from their studies for a while was to stoke the furnace so that rather than burn it billowed with smoke to fill the classroom. Pot or marijuana was not heard of then, but what about smoking some dry leaves or Dad's tobacco, or even a little dried horse manure; all were sure to create a little excitement behind the barn in the school yard.

Also once a year, the school saw the arrival of the photographer to take class pictures. After generally much arranging and re-arranging the class was all situated on the front steps of the school with the camera and all ready, but wait, — why is that young lad making a plunging exit through his classmates? My but he is looking rather green. Upon further investigation, it was not the excitement of the occasion which has caused the commotion, but rather a bar of chewing tobacco which he and his friends had indulged in earlier.

Entertainment for the people of Norma and surrounding areas often involved or occurred at the school, usually in the winter months as this was the time of the year when families were the least busy on their farms. Some of the activities were card parties and skating parties on the large school rink. Also in the winter, the school had a mixed hockey team of boys and girls of all ages who delighted in matching their skills against other teams from Burnt Lake,

Carritt, Poplar Ridge and Durham school districts. In the spring, the competitive sport changed to softball with again the team consisting of girls and boys of all ages, so that there were enough players to play the game under the watchful eye of their teacher-coach. Even with the various ages and skills, the competition between the districts was good and fought with great determination. Skiing and tobogganing down the Blindman River banks or skating on Burnt Lake were two other community activities that were sure to bring out many teenagers on the weekends.

Another large community get together each year was the school Christmas Concert. Approximately one month in advance, the students were able to take time from their studies to learn the dances, the recitations, the plays and the songs which made up the evenings' program. It was also the students who made the costumes and the backdrops for the concerts. Although they thought that they were away from their studies, the students learnt and worked very hard to ensure that everyone in the audience was very proud of them and their concert. If at all possible, at concert time, every mother tried to provide her children with a new outfit and a new pair of shoes. So when the concert night finally arrived, every child was dressed, curled or slicked up until their little faces glowed with such pride and excitement, that they could hardly contain themselves. The evening was enjoyed by all and concluded with the arrival of Old Saint Nick who brought each and every child a bag of candy, nuts and an orange.

Life in Norma was not all school and community activities. Like all the others in the district, Louis and Anna and family worked hard on their land, putting in their crops in the spring and harvesting them in the fall. The Gonsky farm was a mixed farm so there was always chores to do with their cattle and poultry. Through the years, the team of four horses and plow was replaced, first by a Wallace tractor and then by a John Deere and other modern machinery which made farming easier.

Fall harvesting was an exciting time on the farm, for it brought the arrival of the hustle and bustle of the threshing crew. This crew consisted of a farmer who owned a threshing machine and the men of the neighborhood. When a crop was ready to be harvested, the entire crew would move onto the land, threshing and storing the grain in the granaries for the owner. When complete they would move onto the next farm, continuing until all the harvest on the neighborhood farms was done.

During the harvest, the farm wives and children were kept extremely busy for they had to do all the day-to-day chores and tend all the animals they had while the men were away with the threshing crew.

While the crew was on their land, the farm wife had to cook three full course meals and two lunches a day for the entire threshing crew which often consisted of twelve very hungry men.

Once stored for the winter, the crop provided feed for the farm animals and could also be sold to provide food, clothing and other needs for the family. It also provided the seed for the next years crop.

When there was a poor crop year, Louis would supplement his family's income by working in the Nordegg coal mines or by logging west of Rocky Mountain House. In later years, the older sons joined their father working in the logging camp and Anna and the younger children were left to manage the farm.

In 1950, Louis and Anna, with the persuasion of their older sons, decided to lease their farm in the Norma district and made their way to Rutland, B.C. where Louis, Joe and Mike were employed in the logging industry. Bill completed his schooling in B.C. and then he too became employed in logging. Olga remained in Red Deer with her husband, Calder, when the family moved.

In 1953, Mike and his wife of two months were drowned in a fishing accident near Grand Forks, B.C. Soon after this, Louis and Anna sold their farm in Rutland and moved to Westbridge where the men worked logging. They also had a small parcel of land where they raised a few cattle, pigs and chickens and harvested a hay crop. In 1961, Joe was killed in a logging accident.

Louis and Anna stayed in Westbridge through the remainder of their working days and through their many happy years of retirement. Louis liked B.C. for the land and climate which reminded him of his homeland he had left so long ago.

Joe's wife, Hilda and their three children, Gordon, Nadine and Gail all live in various points in B.C.

Bill remains in logging and in Westbridge with his wife Rose Marie and children, Michael and Deanne.

Olga stayed and still resides in Red Deer, Alberta having three children Linda, Daniel and Darcey also near.

Louis passed away quickly in his home in 1979. Anna remains in Westbridge near her son enjoying a retirement that keeps her busy in her home and a garden which she loves and visiting her many friends and neighbors.

The 120 acres in the Norma district remained leased to the Bahler Family until the 1960's when it was sold to them by Louis and Anna Gonsky.

Bruce and Ada (Faucher) Hagerman

Ada, the youngest and only one of the Adelard Faucher family born here, (in 1903) was also one of the first white babies born in this area. She attended Norma School. At that time the school was closed during the winter months, so some of her brothers and sisters walked to Sylvan to school, but Ada was "too little." This changed after 4 or 5 years but in the higher grades she had to go into Red Deer to take her exams. When she was 12, her father became seriously ill and was in bed for two years, so she had to help with running the farm and livestock, as the other children were already away from home. Before even finishing school, she was industrious and did dress-making for several local ladies. It was also during her later school years that she developed quite a talent for oil painting. Selling her paintings and sewing brought in a tidy sum monthly.



Bruce Hagerman Family. Back L. to R.: Agnes, Gertie, Jack, Howard, Bruce. Middle: Ewert, Nita, Val, Shirley, Dixie. Front: Felix, Ada, Burce and Tom.

After a couple years out of school, Ada began courting with Arthur Bruce Hagerman. Born in Unionville, Ontario (just north of Toronto) his family moved west to Unity, Sask., following the death of his mother when he was ten. Then in 1919 Bruce came to Sylvan Lake to visit his brother Reid who was in real estate and insurance here. His visit ended up permanent, though, as he took a job in the Imperial Bank in Sylvan Lake. The bank provided a car, and since Bruce knew how to drive, he and another teller armed with revolvers travelled to Benalto three days a week and operated a branch out of the lumber yard.

In 1919, when Bruce and Ada were going together, they tipped his dad's 1916 Buick touring car in

the creek just east of Sylvan. They blamed it on a loose timber and missing side rail. Bruce had to buy it and since the top was damaged, drove it topless for several years.

Bruce and Ada were married July 18, 1921 at the Catholic Church in Sylvan Lake. They lived on a farm four miles south of town which was rented from his brother Reid. They had one of the first radios around (a three tuber purchased for \$60.00), so often had three other couples over to spend an evening listening. This meant each pair had to cuddle up to share an earphone! Cosy eh? They also got a telephone and Bruce served as secretary of Centreville exchanged for a time.

Farming had its ups and downs then too — in 1922 the grain threshed from 20 acres just filled a 60 bushel box, but in 1923 they reaped 1300 bushels from 35 acres. They were into cheese production for a couple of years, producing 40-50 lbs. daily. Each cheese took three weeks to cure (during this time it had to be washed with a strong salt solution every day)

Bruce's father had been living with them for some of the time and when he died in 1925, they decided to move to Chaplin, Sask. to farm with Bruce's brother, Percy. They made the move in 1926 and in 1927 made a visit back to Alberta on the train. On the way back to Saskatchewan they were involved in a train wreck — it held them up for 24 hours. Luckily they escaped injury.

Farming in Sask. also saw good and bad years, 1928 was quite profitable, \$8000.00 bought them a combine, swather, tractor, truck, car, piano, lighting plant, and electric washing machine. Imagine what they would total now? With the '30's came poor years until finally a possible grasshopper infestation which would eat up all the cattle feed, prompted a decision to move back to Alberta. On Oct. 12, 1936, they arrived back in Sylvan Lake, their settlers effects (cattle, machinery, furniture, etc.) came in three train cars.

While dealing on NE-20-38-1-W5 and W ½ of same, the land man for Canada Life Insurance (who held mortgage) insisted if we wanted to buy this land we must get rid of the combine. His opinion was "this is no country for combines" but we did keep it, although it wasn't brought from Sask. for three years. We did purchase the farm from Ed Sawyer for \$20.00 an acre. There was a new home being built, but it wasn't completed. This was to replace a large fully modern house which had burned down. This was only one of several disasters which had taken place. While living in a granary and rebuilding the house, Mrs. Sawyer lit the fire with an explosive, which burned her and she died. Previously a young

lad had fallen over the bank of basement garage entry to the original home and been killed. Many people, therefore, believed the place was jinxed and warned them to "Beware". But they turned the bad luck around and with lots of hard work built up their farm, gradually expanding it with four more quarters. They had also developed a milk route, delivering milk and cream daily into many businesses and homes in Sylvan Lake. There was no rural electrification yet, but their light plant was helped by a wind charger and they could even have refrigeration (by 1947).

They were involved in several community organizations and capacities. Ada served on the school board from 1947 to 1955, and also operated a clothing bank (started through Syllvan IODE) from 1944 to 1974. She was struck with polio during the epidemic in the late 1950s but despite doctors' predictions that she might never walk, did almost fully recover.

They still believe that their being fortunate enough to maintain a farm with modern machinery, cars, etc., is something which helped influence some of their children to stick with farming. When two of their sons bought the farm from them in 1966, they built a new home on the Faucher homestead. Ada's family home, a five bedroom log house was located on the same spot but had accidentally burned down a few years earlier. Ada continues to farm her parents homestead but they now enjoy retirement. In 1974 Bruce bought a motor home and they travelled to Arizona for several winters. They both enjoy playing Bingo and Ada is still keen on her garden and flower beds. She is now serving her third term as President of Sylvan Lake Friendship Club and Bruce is director so they spend quite a bit of time in activities there.

A highlight for them was 1980 with Alberta 75th Anniversary Medal presentations — Ada received a Gold and Bruce a Silver medal. Now, in 1981 they are looking forward to celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary with their friends and family. The family consists of their six children and their spouses, 15 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren. There was also a set of twins — Ethel and Elmer, born at Chaplin, Sask., July 2, 1927 but they both died shortly after their birth.

Six Hagerman Children.

Agnes, born in 1922 on the farm south of Sylvan Lake. After moving back from Sask, she attended school in Sylvan Lake and worked in an airplane factory in Edmonton. She married Felex Duval who became a CNR engineer upon his return from overseas. Felex passed away in 1972. They had four sons, Bill, Jim, Bob and Philip. Bob's wife died in 1978. Bill is married. Philip lives at home with his mother in Edmonton.

Gertrude, born in 1929 at Caplin. She continued

her schooling at Sylvan Lake and Red Deer Comp., going to University in Calgary where she got her teaching degree. She taught at Shady Lane and Sylvan Lake. Shortly after her teaching career began she married Evart McDonald. They operate a mixed farm just west of Eckville. There are three children, Bernadette, (Mrs. Fran Wyzykoski) Adair (wife Susan) and Vivian, Mrs. Jean Clouthier.

Anita born in 1932 at Chaplin. She took her schooling at Sylvan Lake and Red Deer. She started out in nursing but changed her mind. She worked as a clerk in Innisfail and a steno in Edmonton. Following her marriage to Howard Halvorson, a trucker, she travelled with him as camp cook for three years. They lived in Red Deer for eight years. In 1966 they moved back to the Sylvan Lake district and Howard continues with his trucking business and Anita works with the livestock. There are three children: Connie (Mrs. Brett Matson) Glenn (wife Pam) and Jennifer (to be Mrs. Keith Boyce).

Jack born in 1937 at Sylvan Lake. After finishing school at Sylvan Lake and Red Deer he took up farming. He bought three quarters of land in the Rainy Creek District north of Sylvan Lake. He married Valerie Tehman of Calgary. They have three children, Darcy, now at the University of Calgary, Twins, Tammy and Todd. Jack and Val sold the farm in 1979 and moved to Whitelaw in the Peace River Country where they now farm seven quarters.

Bruce, born in 1939 at Sylvan Lake. After school he went to work on the oil rigs. After a few years he took up farming, buying some land and cattle. He and Tom went into partnership. Bruce married Shirley Airy from the Hespero area, they have two children, Clint and Denise. Both are attending school in Spruce View as they moved to the Markerville area in 1975 where they continue to farm.

Tom born in 1943 at Sylvan Lake. He went to school at Sylvan Lake and Red Deer Composite High, then onto Olds Agriculture College. He graduated in 1966. Tom and Bruce bought their folks farm, raising hogs and dairy cattle. With the addition of more land in 1975 they are now raising beef cattle and grain farming. Tom married Dixie Strathman of the Lacombe area in 1970. They have two children, Jorden in school at Sylvan Lake and Tanya in Kindergarten. Tom and Dixie built a new home in 1980 on the land across from the original farm site.

Herder, Charles and Margaret by Margaret

In the fall of 1951, the Lou Herder family moved from the Balmoral District east of Red Deer, to the 88 acre farm at Sylvan Lake. NE-33-38-1-W5.

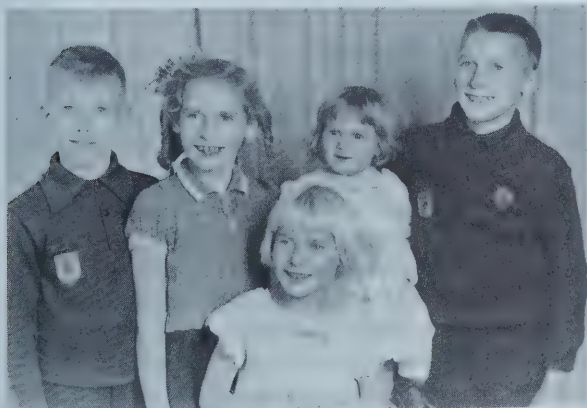
Charlie, the eldest of the children, attended school at Sylvan Lake for one year, and the following year attended LTCHS at Red Deer. He was actively



Lewis, baby Jimmy, Charlie and Ella Herder.

involved in farming with his father, Lou and brother Bob. In 1955, Charlie started construction work in which he was involved for seven years. In 1962 he began construction of a golf course on the farm in Balmoral. In the spring of 1963, his parents joined him at the golf course.

While at Sylvan Lake, Lou Herder, an avid sportsman, enjoyed his membership in the Fish and Game Association. Lou also enjoyed singing in the church choir and the Barber Shop Quartet, and playing his harmonica. Charlie's mother, Sarah Eleanor, was active in the Sylvan Lake WI. Following Lou's death in 1965, she became active in clubhouse work and did so until 1975. She resides in Red Deer with her youngest daughter Betty, and Betty's two daughters Chris and Jill.



Robert, June, Betty, Charles and Louella Herder.

The other family members are Leuella, who is married to a former Dovercourt resident, Bill Rittenhouse, who had moved to Sylvan Lake in 1947 and attended school there. They reside on an acreage outside of Camrose. Bill is involved with the aviation business and is a company owner in Camrose Aviation Ltd. They have four children, Brenda, John, David and Jane.

June, is married to Bill Hedemark and lives on an acreage on the west side of Sylvan Lake with their four children, Lorie, Dianne, John and Donald.

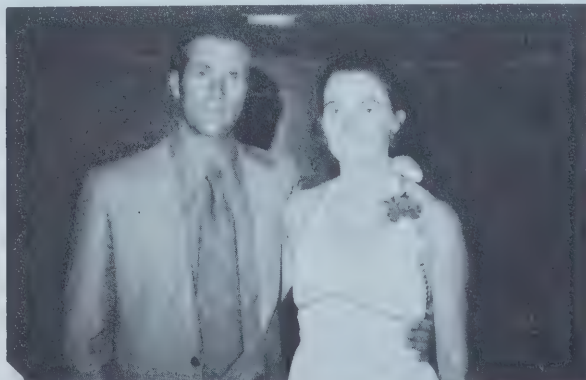
Robert (Bob) is married to the former Judy Parker. They live on a farm in the Burnt Lake District with their two children Jim and Kim.

Charles (Charlie) is married to the former Poplar Ridge resident Margaret Buga. They reside in the Balmoral District and own and operate Balmoral Golf Course. They have two daughters Carla and Lesley.

Herder, Robert W. by Judy

NE-33-38-1-W5

Robert, known to everyone as Bob Herder, came to the Sylvan Lake area with his parents and brother and sisters in 1950. Bob is the son the Sarah Eleanor Harriett Herder and Lewis Elmer Herder. His father Lewis, known to everyone as "Lew Herder" was the third youngest of a family of eleven children. He was born in Manitoba and later moved to the Rosiland, Alberta Area. Many of his brothers and sisters moved to the United States and live in California. As near as the family can tell they are of German descent. In his younger years Lew Herder was a boxer. While residing in Red Deer he owned and operated a sand and gravel trucking business. He married Ella Thompson in 1933. They farmed east of Red Deer from 1947 until 1949 at which time they moved to Sylvan Lake. They farmed at Sylvan Lake until 1963 when Lew and his two sons built the Balmoral Golf Course on



Bob and Judy Herder in 1975.

their property east of Red Deer. He once owned the existing site of Alto Reste Gardens in Red Deer and there is a subdivision in his name nearby. He was deceased on Dec. 24, 1965, when he suffered a heart attack while attempting to extinguish a fire at their home on the Balmoral Golf Course site. All their belongings were lost. Lew Herder was the President of the Sylvan Lake Fish and Game Association he was an avid fisherman and hunter. He belonged to the Sylvan Lake Gun Club and was also a member of the Red Deer Barbershop Quartet. He loved to play his mouth organ and have family singsongs. He was a devoted family man and a deeply loved grandfather. Lew Herder had a great number of friends and was well liked by all.

Bob's mother, Ella (nee Thompson) Herder came with her family from Ontario at age one in June 1904. They lived in a sod house east of Red Deer on the NW 24-38-26-W4. She came from a family of three girls. Her parents were both British descent. Her grandfather Joshua Thompson was a cabinet maker and a piece of his work is on display at Brewsters Museum in Victoria, B.C. At one time he was hired to make the post office boxes for Strathcona, south of Edmonton. These boxes were made by himself in Montreal, Quebec and shipped to Strathcona. Joshua Thompson did beautiful work, sometimes his buffets etc., were made of tiny pieces of inlaid wood and Ella Herder has one that is made of small pieces of broken china. As a child, Ella Herder helped around the house and spent her summers on her grandparents farm. She was employed for eleven years as a telephone operator with the telephone exchange. She married Lewis Herder in 1933 and became a homemaker and mother. She was a member of the Rebecca Lodge and an active member of the Women's Institute.

The Herders resided on the farm at Sylvan Lake in an old storey and a half dwelling that they purchased from John Kessle in 1950. It belonged to the Jambois Family before that and before that to a family named Dingwall. The Dingwall's owned the property but never lived there. The house was moved several years before from the main part of the town of Sylvan Lake. While being renovated in 1970 it was found that some of the walls were insulated with 1914 French Illustrated Gazette papers. At one time the upstairs was rented out to other people but this was not while the Herders owned the house.

Robert (Bob) Herder was born in Red Deer in 1936, the second of five children. He attended North Red Deer School for 2 years, Central School for one year and Balmoral school for three years. While attending Balmoral School, which was a one roomed school house, the Fish and Wildlife paid a bounty for

magpie and crow feet. The bounty was five cents per pair of feet. The teacher had to inspect and count the feet and would promptly say — ugh — take them to the furnace in the basement and burn them. It was questionable how many days those feet were counted before they ever got to the furnace.

Upon moving to Sylvan Lake, Bob attended school there from 1950 to 1954 at which time he worked with his father and brother Charlie on the farm. He was a Boy Scout and later on a Scout leader. He worked in partnership with his father and brother until his father's passing in 1965, and then with his brother until 1970 when he purchased the farm from his mother.

In 1963 he married Judy Parker. Together they run a cow-calf operation which began in the early sixties. For many years each spring the cattle would be trucked out to Elk Flats on the Clearwater Forest Reserve. In late October or early November they would be herded back the one hundred and ten miles home with the help of volunteer cowboys. Many a cowboy would be "broke-in" on these cattle drives. This cattle drive would take ten days and a joint venture of four ranchers with approximately six hundred head of cattle. At one time it was filmed by the CBC Television Network. At that time Bob was President of the Idelwilde Stock Association. Some of the cowboys wouldn't make it the whole distance and others would be recruited. Bob made many new friends each year.

For six years he raced pony chariots at rodeos and shows, and at one time held the record for Red Deer at the Indoor Horse Show in 1970. The two horses that Bob raced were Lady and Beauty and they would exercise themselves by running around the barnyard just as if they were harnessed together and then they would stop and the kids would be sitting on the fence watching them and they would clap. It was as if they were putting on a show for the kids. Whenever they ran in the pasture they ran together.

Bob served on the Recreation Board for Sylvan Lake for two years and is currently Chairman of the Board for the Cygnet Lake Drainage District. He spent eight years working together with different government people trying to stabilize Cygnet Lake in order to get pasture land drained that had been under water for many years. The project was finally completed in 1978 and 1979. It was always very interesting living on a farm that bordered town. Each fall when we weaned our calves from the cows the neighbors would protest and sometimes report to the authorities that we were starving our cattle because the bawling would go on for four or five days. Bob is an avid fisherman and hunter and for several years he

won trophies from the Fish and Game for the Largest Mallard Duck and such.

At one time he supplied all the stock for the Eckville Indoor Rodeo. The cows that he supplied were some of his range cows that were quite quiet at home but they performed well when used in the rodeos.

Judy was born in High River and then moved with her parents to Lethbridge where she attended school until grade 11 when they moved to Red Deer. She is the daughter of Albert and Ruby Parker. Her mother's parents were both born and raised in England while her father's parents were from Norway and the USA. Judy's grandfather, John Parker had one of the first "mobile homes". This was a bunk house type of building, very small which was outfitted in the front as a blacksmith's shop and has sleeping quarters in the rear. John Parker pulled this "trailer" from Bow Island near Lethbridge, to Peace River with a Fordson Steel Wheeled tractor. At one point he had to replace the steel wheels with rubber tires. The trip was an eight hundred mile long journey. When Judy's father completed grade nine in 1933 he travelled to Peace River to visit his father and was asked if he would teach school there. It seems there were no teachers or schools at that time and the area was inhabited primarily by Indian People. There were white men with Indian wives, but there was only one white woman in the area.

Judy came from the city, so she found farm life somewhat of a challenge. Before marrying Bob, she was employed as a secretary in Red Deer. She always liked to sing and began to sing publically in 1965. She sang with the Red Deer Musical Theatre for six years. She also sang at many community functions and enjoyed it very much. Her biggest fan clubs were the old folks homes and nursing homes where she went to entertain the senior citizens. In 1973 she became a member of the Red Deer Exhibition Grand-Stand Committee, and after six years became the Chairman. Being involved with the exhibition she has had the pleasure of many entertainers company and recalls her working with Pat Boone the most enjoyed. For several years she directed the Innisfail Drop In Centres Chorus. She also liked to make floats for Sylvan Lake 1913 Days parades.

Judy was also an animal lover at heart and took in all the strays. Not all of them stayed, but she had quite a following of dogs and cats. Besides these animals were the barnyard pets. There was Charlie the goat, who was loved by all — well nearly everyone. He proved to be quite entertaining and would walk on his hind legs for crabapples and shakehands and eat all the flowers.

The Herders had this prize goat for eight years.

He finally retired to a herd of nannies near Eckville. Then there was Henrietta Chicken who liked to have her toenails painted bright red. She was very friendly and entertained all the children in the neighborhood, as did Daisy and Donald Duck and their children. These pets all had glowing personalities. In 1976 she met a group from the exhibition called Willy Lenz and His Chimps, who paid her a visit one weekend. They came with a truck the size of a moving van which had a huge window in the side of it. In the truck were eight chimps, one of which was to give birth any day. One of the chimps came in the house and really entertained everyone for the evening. People around would not believe the Herders had eight chimps come to visit them. They were all fed tea and rice before retiring each night.

Bob and Judy have two children, Jim age 16 and Kim age 14. They attend H. J. Cody School in Sylvan Lake. Jim is very interested in the farm and Bob hopes that he will work there after completing school.

Jim has been involved in the 4-H calf club of Benalto for two years and really enjoys it. He also likes to go skiing in the winter and swims in the Herders pool. Jim and Bob with the help of Judy and Kim built a swimming pool in 1979. They dug the major excavation with the tractor, but had to shape the sides which took about 8 days. The ground was shale and bedrock and they had a terrible time getting the last of the work done. Now their efforts are behind them and they have a pool to enjoy. During the



Jim and Kim Herder in 1974.

summer the farm attracted many children and Jim made many new friends.

Sometimes when Bob and Judy retired for the night they had to count heads to see how many 'Guests' were staying overnight.

Kim is really a sports minded girl. She excels in track and field and also likes volleyball and basketball. Like Jim she likes to ski and swim.

In 1980 she was a candidate for the Miss Mermaid Contest which is held each year. She sang solos in the Kiwanis Music Festival when in Elementary School, did quite well. She hopes to be a model or have a job in public relations upon completing school.

In 1975 Bob and Judy sold their property near town for development and moved 2½ miles south of Sylvan Lake where they built their new home and farm buildings.

Bob's family all live in Alberta. June and her family in Sylvan Lake. Luella and her family in Camrose, where they are partners in Camrose Aviation. Charlie and his family run the Balmoral Golf Course. Betty and her family and her mother Ella Herder live in Red Deer. Betty is a certified nursing aide at Red Deer Regional Hospital. Ella Herder now has a total of 14 grandchildren.

The Herder's had a variety of hired people over the years, one that comes to mind was a fellow that they called "Wild Bill". He said that he could make himself invisible. One day when they were sorting cattle he let them all get by and then said that the cattle couldn't see him because he was invisible. "Wild Bill" worked for Lew Herder.

For many years Hank Johnston worked for Bob Herder. At that time Hank was living on the property of Chester Soderberg. Later Keith Knopp worked for Bob, continuing for approximately nine years. Keith came from the Condor District and formerly from the USA.

The best remembered person to work for the Herders was Lorraine Brassard. Now, this did cause a commotion. She would not go out to work like the usual "hired" hand — she wore a bikini which caused one or two vehicles to nearly hit the ditch. Well when the subject came up in a conversation, and Bob would say my hired hand — Lorraine — all the heads would turn — so we finally had to change her name to George. That made things a whole lot easier. She worked for the Herders for three years and then married Bill Lee and now resides on the old Wayne Kores property.

The Story of the Herman Family

Hilda Franklin

The phrase "Go West, young man," reached my father's ear (Pete Herman) when he was a machinist



Peter and Marie Herman in 1950.

in New London, Conn. The result was the move in 1901 to the homestead SE-12-39-1-W5 located about three miles east of Sylvan Lake, on the 5th Meridian a mile north of the highway between Red Deer and Sylvan Lake.

Many precious memories come to my mind when I recall our life on the homestead. The trees gave us logs for the fireplace and to heat the sauna and annually a spruce for a Christmas tree. One particular pre-Christmas morning I remember vividly. The snow sparkled like diamonds, the tree branches loaded with snow were bowed down as if to greet us, a white rabbit passed us without a sound. It was so still that my ears began to ring.

In spring and summer the trees sheltered many different kinds of birds who wakened us with their morning songs. Evenings brought owls hooting, the yelping of coyotes and sometimes crashing thunderstorms. We enjoyed riding ponies in groups or singly, for chores or for pleasure. Bare-back? Of course! Who was going to buy seven saddles? We didn't use even the saddles we had.

Summer was the time for family picnics at Sylvan Lake on the then, clean beaches. We often walked over to visit grandmother who lived a little more than a mile away. A cool drink of spring water from the gorge by her house was refreshing after our walk. Blueberry picking parties were fun times, too. Several families would gather to enjoy the picnic and the picking. Each family went home with gallons of berries.

There were eleven children in our family and each one of us attended the Norma School for part of our elementary education.

I remember four of my teachers in that school, Miss Simons, Mr. Patterson, Mr. Heustis and Mrs. Austin. I spent the rest of my school days in Red Deer. We idolized young Mr. Heustis who had a sense of humor. One incident comes to my mind. I drew a picture of a huge hippopotamus and a rhinoceros which made Neima laugh. Mr. Heustis wanted to know the reason for the disturbance and she replied, "Hilda drew a funny picture."

Mr. Heustis then said, "Hilda you stay in doors for ten minutes at recess time and show me that picture." Then the teacher's laugh was louder than Niama's giggle and he said, "Well Hilda, you stay in just five minutes." We were sad indeed when our young teacher lost his life in the First World War.

I recall some styles of yore, such as our surrey type of carriage with a top but no fringe. We were crowded in it even with the extra seats that were added for the little ones. It was used on very special occasions. Then, the girls wore dresses that were white, starched and frilled with lace. Oh, yes, the black bottomed shoes were in style, as well as the Knickerbockers for boys. Father donned a bowler to cover his bald head and a feathered hat rested proudly atop mother's black hair. Her shoes were hidden by a hem that dusted the floor.

Do you remember when basketball games were for girls only? They wore navy, jersey bloomers and sailor blouses then.

My father passed away in 1950 and my mother's life ended in 1960. There are only four of us left but I shall mentioned each one in the following notes.

1. Selma Giles passed away in 1953. She was deprived of much of the education that was available, because of her life-long hearing loss. She had three children. Mabel Calder who has three married daughters and one son — all living in Victoria, B.C. Vernon Giles, had one daughter, who lives in B.C. He is a carpenter in Surrey, B.C. Dr. Ted Giles is a professor in the University of Calgary and is the author of five books covering the subject of Educational Administration. His wife, Betty, is also a teacher. They have two daughters and one son.

2. My brother Less was a bachelor in Calgary. He passed away in 1977. He missed much of an education because he was needed on the farm. He did very well however, and held the position of Engineer until his retirement. In fact, he was the chosen engineer of the Royal Train in 1939 when the former Royal couple visited Alberta.

3. Leida Synder went to Portland in 1924 just to visit our great aunt and our cousins. She liked

Oregon so much that she found employment there. After all she just returned to the country of her birth, as she was born in New London, Conn. Then she met her future husband, Earl, who had decided to study optometry. He needed a few more high school credits to be qualified for college so he worked during the days and studied whenever it was possible.

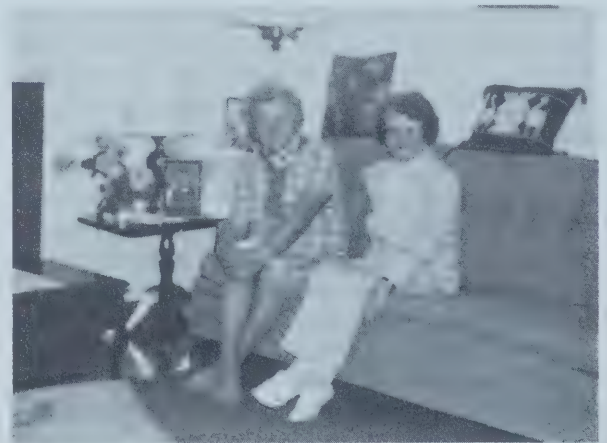
Geometry and algebra were two of the credits that he needed and those were Leida's favorite subjects; so he accepted her help and was always grateful. The struggle was worth while when Dr. E. T. Snyder opened his office. Leida passed away in 1964 and Earl on New Year's Eve, 1979. Janet was their only child, who has two daughters and two grandchildren living in Oregon.

4. Ella Madge has lived in Calgary since 1923 and gave much of her time to family and home. She gave the world two wonderful citizens who were young adults when their father passed away.

Edward V. Goodman is an adviser in the Office of Computer System in the Science Dept of Exxon Corp., located in the state of New Jersey. He is married to Marie, a talented teacher from Canada. Their two daughters have been successful in college and, like their mother, are interested in music and art.

Frances is like her mother, patient and kind. After her graduation she was a private secretary. Frances and Tony were blessed with a girl and a boy. A few years after their move to White Rock, B.C. they were saddened by the death of their daughter, Tracy in 1975. They will be proud of Ken who shows keen interest in many areas.

5. Hilda Franklin. Teaching has been my interest. I taught school in Canada for twelve years and most of those years were spent in Hanna and Lethbridge. Dennis Grimes, my only child, was born in Hanna. After the death of my husband, we moved to Lethbridge in 1945. We were happy there but it was



Elizabeth Hughes (Kask) Hilda Franklin (Herman) in 1977.

almost impossible to buy a house at that time. In the year 1949, we moved to Portland where we had relatives. I was obliged to work for my degree, so it was night classes and summer school for me until the day I graduated. I began teaching before that day but the B.Sc. degree in Education came through long before I completed 15 years of teaching in Portland.

Dennis received his B.Sc. degree in accounting, and economics. He has been the Corporation Controller of Jantzen Business. Dennis and Judy have three sons who have abilities in dramatics, music and general education.

6. Naima passed away in 1923. It was sad indeed, we had plans to go to college together. She was talented in art and active in sports and belonged to a basketball team. In fact, she won in two races a short period prior to her fatal illness (spinal meningitis).

7. Hertha (Reta) passed away in 1963. She lived an interesting life. She joined the RCAF and was active in postal work. She nursed mother and father in their final years. She was active in biking, bowling art and square dancing. I still have her trophies for winning bowling tournaments. She was a kind person with a lively sense of humor. We miss her very much.

8. Magda (Madge) Chaters. She was a lover of nature. She resides in a quiet suburb of Vancouver at the foot of Burnaby Mountain. She likes her privacy in a home surrounded by trees that stand like sentinels. Her pets are important to her, especially since the death of her husband and many of her senior neighbors. She spends much of her time reading.

9. Paul passed away in 1977. He served overseas in WW2 and was a patient in hospital in England. He was a boiler maker and was proud of his accomplishments. He enjoyed his garden and home in Burnaby.

10. Lloyd passed away in 1973. His death was instantaneous, caused by car collision. Lloyd took over the farming of the families three quarter sections of land. We were grateful for the way he handled the farming business. He was a serious person who was ready to help any neighbor with problems. He reformed the farming system by purchasing a combine for the harvesting of crops. Lloyd took an interest in the farmers' organizations and accepted responsibilities, within those groups. May he rest in peace.

11. Carl resides in Castlegar, B.C. Carl, in his younger days, did try to get his education, but times were rough then and he needed the work. He handled the huge road buildings equipment and experienced hazardous moments. His son Allan and daughter Donna, live in Toronto. Donna is the mother of a boy and girl. Carl is retired now and we hope he will keep playing the various instruments because he has talent.



Herman Farm house in the SE 12-39-1-W5th.

The Herman Family Grandparents — George and Lena Wall homesteaded SW $\frac{1}{4}$ 12-39-1-W5 in 1902. My maternal grandparents, George and Lena Wall, claimed the woodsy quarter of land adjacent and west of our home spot. The Ilcisin Family now reside on that land. Uncle Gus Wall, settled about a mile north-west of his parents' home.

My grandfather was a wood worker, who built spinning wheels, clocks, wool carders and cupboards, etc. The farm did not appeal to him so he moved to Sylvan Lake. My grandmother was fond of animals and farm life so she lived with her son after grandpa passed away. Her oldest son Kal was a tailor in Philadelphia, and Matt was a sailor.

My paternal grandfather, John claimed the quarter section NW of our NW $\frac{1}{4}$ 12-39-1-WR in 1902. I never saw grandma Anna, nor do I know when she passed away.

Grandpa John was a blacksmith who helped to build a shop on our farm. He repaired machinery, sharpened plow shares and shod the horses. The neighbors were grateful for these services.

He was a great fisherman who brought home pails full of pike and trout. He froze them in winter and kept them in brine in summer.

The Hodgsons

written by Ronald Hodgson

W $\frac{1}{2}$ -11-39-1-W-5 (1939-1956) — Robert C. and Florence E., Ronald R. and Madeline E.

Mom and Dad moved from England to Waseca, Sask. in 1903. Here they homesteaded, staying until 1918, then moved to Rosedale, Alberta in the coal mining area of the Drumheller Valley. My older sister, Stella, a younger sister Winnie and I were born at Waseca.

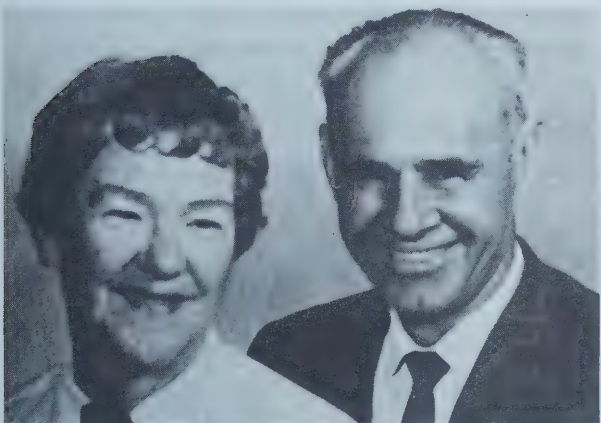
We came to Sylvan Lake and the Norma district in 1939, where we took up the business of farming.

By the middle of the thirties mining was almost finished in the valley except for a brief period during and after the war. Unemployment, soup kitchens,



Robert (Bob), Ron, Stella, Winnie and Florance Hodgson.

and relief camps were the order of the day. In the early years at Rosedale, Dad ran a store and theatre. We went to school in Rosedale. In later years I worked in the mines as well as on the farm.



Madeline and Ronald Hodgson.

In May of 1936 I married Madeline MacKay, a red headed Scottish girl from Perth. She was born in Edinburgh, Scotland in June of 1913. Having lost their father, they moved to Calgary with their Mother, Elizabeth and two brothers, Albert and Malcolm. They finished their schooling in Canada and her mother worked for the Canadian Gas Company until her passing at the age of 83. Both her brothers served in the war. Both married Canadian girls. Albert had two sons and a daughter. Mac has no family. Both passed away due to lengthy illnesses at rather young ages. Mac's wife, Mattie lives in Calgary. Alberts first wife, Leah in B.C. his second wife May, in Sask.

Heather, our daughter, was born in April 1937 at

Drumheller. Gail our second daughter in June of 1941 and Roy in Sept. 1947, both in Red Deer.

In the late fall of 1939, Dad and I were accepted by the Alberta Government Land Settlements System for the re-location of people from the areas in Alberta hit hardest by the depression and unemployment. Prospective settlers had to locate suitable Government land, lease or rent it, and if approved by a Government Inspector, a small grant and a government loan were available to purchase stock and machinery.

During the winter of 1939-40, Dad built a small log house and a barn, and in the early spring of 1940, I went to the farm and we built a second house and cleared 30 acres by hand. It was broken by our closest neighbors, the John Sjares who lived right across the road . . . John and Clara, Bernard, Johnny, Elmer who farmed at Everts and Mary who taught school. When we finished the house, Madeline and my daughter Heather, age four, moved from Calgary where they had been staying with her mother.

For the next few years we continued to clear the land by hand and worked with horses. We had some brush cut by Sig Bjarenson, and the Spycher Brothers. Later when we left the farm Ernie Spycher bought it.

In 1944 we bought a Rumley tractor from Gus Wall (which was a monster of a thing), later I bought an Oliver 90.

We visited with our neighbors, the Klines to the east, Ken Kingsep to the south, Gus Wall, who lived northeast of us, and the Zimmermans to the North. We hauled water in barrels by horse and wagon from Gus Wall's until we got a well. The Zimmermans helped out a great deal in the years that I was away working in Nordegg and Alex. During the winter months, they saw that Madeline and the girls got to town, first by horse and sleigh, then by truck. Heather was taking Scotch and tap dancing lessons at that time from Marion May and did so for six years. Later Gail also took some lessons. Heather won a number of awards at Highland Games.

Young Bobby Kingsep spent a winter with us and helped with the chores. Dad was in poor health and I away at the mines. He went to Norma School from our place. Heather started school in 1943, her first teacher was Mrs. Jim Parks. He ran the elevator at Prevo the years we were hauling grain.

Gail started school later, about the same time as young Johnny Sjare, they also had Mrs. Parks teach them.

In 1944 Mrs. Joe Roberts, my young sister Winnie, with her three children Marjorie, Beverly and Clark moved on to the farm. Her husband was working in the mines in Nordegg. He died in 1945. The



Doug, Gail and Shanon Galusha.

kids all went to school at Norma until they moved to town. Winnie worked for Cobbs Store as a clerk, and at the Drug Store. Later at AGT as an agent for the Sylvan Lake Office.

Winnie lives at Mara Lake, B.C. where she has her own painting and hobby shop. Marj and Bev live in B.C. and Clark in Lethbridge, Alta.

Stella married John Johnson from Benalto. They moved to the U.S. and are now living in Palm Springs, California. She is an RN in the hospital there. John died after a lengthy illness.

Dad passed away in 1948, while still on the farm. Mom in 1953 while visiting Stella in North Port, Washington.

Heather married Bernard Sjare in 1956 and they still live on the farm. They became very involved with show dogs, kennels, sports, and coaching swim clubs. They have three children, Becky, Holly and Mike.

Gail joined the Air Force and married an airman, now Sgt. Doug Galusha. They moved around a great deal including postings in Germany and Sardinia. They are now at the Armed Forces Base at Oromocto, N.B. They have a chosen daughter, Shannon.

Roy married a Drumheller girl, Cynthia Wall, after finishing school in Sylvan Lake and Toronto. They now live in Calgary with their children Tosha, Ryan and Pala. Roy works for AGT in the CTV delay centre as an electronics engineer.

We left the farm and lived in Nordegg and Alex for a few years. Heather took her grade nine in Nordegg and finished in Red Deer at River Glen. Gail finished school at Sylvan Lake after we moved back due to the closing of the Nordegg mines and a tippie fire.

I worked for the Town of Sylvan Lake, and with the town police. Both Madeline and Heather worked



The Hodgsons. Roy, Cynthia, Tosha, Ryan and Pala.

for a number of years with AGT. Madeline worked with the Cubs along with Mrs. C. Ritz.

In 1959 we moved back to Drumheller and worked at the hospital until we retired. Now we take things easy, travelling and camping.

Nick and Joyce Ilcisin

by Joyce Ilcisin

SW¼ 12-39-1-W5

NW¼ 12-39-1-W5

SE¼ 12-39-1-W5

We moved to the Norma District from Red Deer



The Nick Ilcisin Family — 1980. Back: Ray Miller, Mike Ilcisin, Helen Ilcisin, Tim Bradley. Front: Marion Miller, Scott Bradley, Nick, Joyce, Nicolle Miller, Marilyn Bradley.

on Jan. 27, 1961, with our three children, Marilyn Marlene 5½, Marion Joy 3, and Michael Peter 1½.

The day was very cold and stormy. The house we were moving into was old and of course because of the doors being open was as cold as a barn. We had moved from a new house in Red Deer and I could have turned around and gone right back. However it wasn't long before the place warmed up and things began to look better. The next day a chinook was blowing and water running everywhere. What a difference.

The kindness and friendliness of the neighbors made the adjustment from city life to country living so much easier. Joe and Vera Gaukler were very good friends. Heather Sjare, I'm sure saved my sanity that first winter. It got pretty lonely at times with Nick away working and me at home with three small children. Heather always seemed to know when to phone for a chat or to share a cup of coffee.

Many happy times are remembered of dances gone to with the Gauklers, Sjares, Bahlers and Maga's. Card parties too have caused many laughs and good times to be shared with our wonderful neighbors.

Nick's profession while in Red Deer was a finishing carpenter and cabinet maker. He has built cupboards and finished many homes in this and surrounding areas.

Our third daughter, Helen Joan was born May 27, 1964.

Soon after we moved to the farm we started milking cows, and milked as many as sixty at one time. We sold the dairy to our son-in-law in Aug. 1979, and do only field work, leaving us time in winter for holidays.

Marilyn was married to Tim Bradley on June 7, 1975. They now live in Sylvan Lake with their son, Scott Michael, born Feb. 3, 1979. They operated the dairy on our farm.

Marion was married on July 15, 1978 to Ray Miller. Ray operates the U.F.A. Petroleum in Red Deer, where they live. They have a baby girl, Nicole Raylene, born March 11, 1980.

Michael operates a water truck which he and his dad bought in the spring of 1980. It is known as Clearwater Trucking.

Helen is in high school in Sylvan Lake. She is very interested in sports and horses. In the summer of 1980 she was named Queen of the Benalto Stampede.

I am a member of the women's section of The Westerner in Red Deer. Past president of the C.W.L. in Sylvan Lake and am presently acting as co-ordinator for Meals-on-wheels-drivers in Sylvan Lake.

Nick is a member of the Elks club in Benalto and the Knights of Columbus in Red Deer.

We are very happy to be part of this community and feel it is one of the best to be found anywhere.

Fred and Ivy Johnson

by Sarah Stickney — Ponoka, Alberta

I couldn't really say when my grandparents came to Canada. My father's parents, Oscar and Sigruid Johnson, came from Iceland and settled in Calder, Sask. My dad had three sisters and five brothers. Most are passed away including my dad who died in 1958.

My mother's parents, Thomas and Selena Ball, came from England and farmed at Southfork, which is close to Pincher Creek. My mother, Ivy, was born in Corbin, B.C. in 1913. She has three sisters and three brothers. My mother met my father and younger brother, Sam, when they came from Sask. to work on the ranches in the south country. My mother first married Sam Johnson on Aug. 8th, 1930 and my eldest sister Audrey was born in Fort McLeod. Then when Audrey was one, Sam passed away and on April 25, 1933. Ivy and Fred were married in Corbin, B.C.

In 1934 my grandparents and parents came to Lacombe to farm just one mile south on 2A highway as my grandpa had a brother that farmed in the Sandy Nook area — Jack Ball.

My grandparents left the farm and moved to Michelle, B.C. to work in the coal mines and my father stayed until 1940 and then we moved to Bentley. We farmed there, milking eighteen cows by hand. Then when I was five or so we moved 2½ miles South of Lacombe on the old C & E Trail to a farm known as the Parks Farm. There we farmed with teams of horses and I can remember several neighbors getting together to thresh each others crops. I remember the first two tractors were Minneapolis Moline — yellow — and of course a good old Ford did all the grinding.

We walked about 2 miles to school, which was known as Mountain Grove, at Jackfish Lake. It is one mile south on 2A highway and is near Lacombe. My first teacher was Mrs. Evelyn Wright, who still lives in Lacombe. The second year they decided we were to go to Blackfalds. My teacher there until Christmas was Anne Gaukler. Then we had to go back to Mountain Grove to Miss Roulston, then Mrs. Sherman, Ron Sampsell and Vivian Moore. Then we left and moved to Sylvan Lake. We lived at Jackson's Store on the east side of Sylvan. My father had bought a brush cutter and piler and did a lot of work around the Sylvan, Markerville and Caroline area.

My brother (Sonny) or Fred, Sarah, Lorraine and Lillian all attended Norma School. We walked 1½ miles. Our teacher was Mrs. Lees.

Ivy remarried in 1969 to Ed Kern of Innisfail and resides in Victoria, B.C. They have a landscaping business.

Audrey married Chester Dool of Lacombe and had three children. She is now married to Cliff Ferguson and resides in Edson.

Gloria married James Nelson of Penhold. They have four children and now reside in Edmonton.

Sonny (or Fred), married Donna Duffield of Sylvan Lake and had one son. He is now married to a girl with four children and resides in Calgary.

Sarah married Ken Stickney. They have one boy and four step-children. They farm west of Ponoka.

Loraine married Roy Talbot, has three children and works at Festival Ford in Red Deer.

Lillian is single and works for M & M Management. She lives in Red Deer.

Sharon married Linonel Walker of Innisfail; now married to Garry Blondin and has two children and lives in Victoria, B.C.

Marilyn is single and works at Safeway. She lives in Victoria, B.C.

Sarah, Lorraine, Lillian and Marilyn all attended the reunion held in July of 1980. It was just a wonderful time, very well organized and great to see everyone again.

Johnson (Frank)

by Eva

I, Eva, was born and raised in the Shady Nook School District. My parents, Hazel and Clifford Braithwaite, farmed SE16-T37-R28-W4 and E21-T37-R28-W4. I was educated at Shady Nook and



Frank Johnson Family. Back: David, Valerie, Beverly and Clifford. Front: Eva and Frank.

Red Deer High School. Frank was born, raised and educated in the Pine Hill School District. His parents, Lena and Fred Johnson farmed NW22-T37-R1-W5.

In the autumn of 1961, Frank and I with our children, David 15, Beverly 13, Clifford 11, and Valerie 8, moved to Norma District on NW35-T38-R1-W5 across the road from the former Norma School. This farm was purchased from Mrs. Merling. Mr. & Mrs. Belfontaine had also been previous owners.

A cattle drive was organized to move our 150 head of Polled Shorthorn cattle. They were driven approximately 10 miles from Pine Hill, with the aid of family, relatives and friends, including Hazel and Clifford Braithwaite. A well earned break came for the herders when I met them near Nick Halvorson's farm with a huge picnic dinner. The cattle found water and grass and had time for a rest. The drive then continued on to the south corner of the farm, bordering on Burnt Lake. There the fence was opened to let them in and they quickly settled down that night.

We were desperately cold that first winter in the house. A small heater stove in the small dugout cellar had to be filled continuously to produce enough steam to heat the radiators, which seemed pretty well clogged with lime build-up. Our electric cook stove provided no heat, and we would have much preferred an old fashioned wood burning cook stove. In the evenings we'd gather comforters over us, and with the aid of hot tea, home made candy and television, we managed to tough it out until spring. Many nights, the upstairs thermometer registered no higher than 49 deg. F.

The next year we were tired of the two inch hump across the middle of the living room floor, created at the point where an addition joined onto the main house. We tore out the living room floor and replaced it with a nice even hardwood. Planks spanning the floor joists made shaky footing for a while. After much more cellar excavating done by hand and bucket, a heating system was installed. Water and sewer systems were installed for added comfort.

We raised cattle, sheep and chickens. David took pride in raising ducks and geese. A few milk cows were kept as well. Large strawberry patches kept us busy along with a huge garden. We also took time to pick saskatoons and choke cherries to add to the family larder. We rented an extra quarter of land from the Demas family of Poplar Ridge.

The fences around the farm had seen much better days before our arrival, so we hired native Indians to repair and replace them. They arrived complete with tents, families and friends, and settled down near the

trees. As each working day progressed there appeared to be less workers in sight until only one family remained. We couldn't persuade them to use vegetables and fruit from the garden, but every day they came to the house to borrow cream, bread and flour. We enjoyed the grandfather, Loui Thom, who came every morning at 8:30 for a cup of coffee and to tell some lively tales. His young granddaughter became a friendly visitor for our children.

A plan to burn a huge pile of wood scraps in the yard, no longer required for fuel, drew a bit of excitement as the flames leaped high into the night. Several concerned people were drawn off the highway to inspect the activity. Water had to be thrown on nearby trees to save them. Our planned wiener roast had to be cancelled as the heat forced us to keep our distance. A few weeks later, Valerie decided to burn garbage. When a passer by notified us of a fire, it was too late to save the outhouse.

The children each had their own ponies. This gathered many would-be cowboys to prove themselves. After one tiring unsuccessful afternoon, the boys prevailed on Beverly to catch her horse for them. With one gentle word from her, her "Toni" walked up to be bridled. Palimino "Alma Lee" loved racing in the fields, but when pulled to a fast halt, Clifford often found himself quickly unloaded and surprised.

The children were bussed to school at Sylvan Lake and became involved in school affairs. They made many lasting friendships and our place became alive with activity of young folks almost to the exclusion of our own social life. In 1970 David married Rose Pelky from Sylvan Lake. He is a civil servant at Michener Centre in Red Deer and enjoys the hobby of motor mechanics. Rose is an insurance agent with AMA in Red Deer. They, with sons Brian age 6, and Douglas age 1, have their home in Sylvan Lake. Beverly continued her education through University of Calgary and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in 1971. She worked as a guidance officer with Unemployment Insurance Commission in Calgary and is now a social worker in Red Deer. Clifford also continued school through U. of C. and earned a Bachelor of Commerce degree in 1973. He had taken a leave of absence from Gulf Oil of Canada and returned to University to study law. He expects to graduate in 1981. In 1975 he married Gail Smith of Calgary. She is in business as a commercial artist. Valerie became a secretary with Alberta Agriculture. She owned and operated an amusement centre in High River, and now sells real estate in Red Deer. In 1973 she married Rick Smart, a barber in Red Deer.

Frank worked as a broker in Alberta's oil industry and also sold real estate. Eva worked as a linotypist

with Sylvan Lake News, as well as being a waitress and bookkeeper for Uptown Cafe and Theatre. Later she became a secretary for McCutcheon Agencies at Sylvan Lake. In 1968 Frank and I moved to Sylvan Lake and sold the farm to Mr. & Mrs. Henry Krebs.

Our nearest neighbors included: The Mel Crorys, Hank Johnstons, Roy Schmidts, Bill Scots, Franklin Steers and Allan Ranseys.

Kask, Alexander and Early History of Norma District

by Elizabeth (Kask) Hughes

Among the very first settlers in the Norma Districts were a number of Estonian families who came there around the year 1900. At that time homesteads of land were offered to entice people to populate the West.

In many European countries there was already serious overcrowding, so many were happy to come here, hoping to acquire land and to establish a new life. One of the first to arrive was John Kask who was from Saaremaa, an island off the coast of one of the Baltic States, Estonia. He had already travelled as a sailor and had settled in New York. His homestead was the land on which the first Norma School was built. He was followed by his wife and daughter Julia, and remained on the place for several years. Three more children were born to them there — Maria, Olga and Jack. They later moved to Prince Rupert, Tofield and Vancouver. Marie attended the University in Edmonton, and later taught high school in Alberta and B.C. She was one of the originators of York House, a private school in Vancouver. Jack became a Doctor of Science and worked for several years as chairman of the Canadian Fisheries Research Board in Ottawa. He now lives in California.

John Kask's brother Anthony and his wife Lisa settled on land near Cygnet Lake (Burnt Lake). His home was still standing there a few years ago. He had a family of three boys — George, Alex and Edward, and two daughters — Julia and Anne. They later moved to Montana and Abbotsford, B.C. All the children were successful in their various careers. Anne taught school for many years in B.C. and presently lives in Abbotsford.

Their sister Lisa and her husband Michael Wartnow came in 1901 with four children. They stayed with my father while they built their two storey home near Burnt Lake. They had not been in it long when a grass and forest fire burned it down. Lisa ran with her children and the cow into the creek for safety. She said that it was amazing how the wild animals big and small came and stood with them in the water, not the least afraid. Their family moved to Big Valley in 1907.

Two Walters' brothers, Peter and Michael, also took land in the area. Peter Walters had his homestead about 2½ miles from Sylvan Lake on the highway to Red Deer. He also came to the district around 1900. His wife Alma joined him there shortly after and they had two daughters, Eugenie and Alida. They both attended Norma for Public school and continued at Sylvan Lake and Red Deer High School. Eugenie became a teacher and taught for many years at Chancellor and Diamond Valley. Alida took nurses training at the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Edmonton. She passed away in 1932 after a long illness. Peter Walters stayed on the farm until his death in 1931. His widow and Eugenie moved to the coast in 1938. After teaching High School in B.C. for many years, Eugenie has now retired to Vancouver. Their place is now owned by the Ward family and I believe some of the original buildings are still standing.

A family named Walt homesteaded on the Bellefontaine place across the road from the second Norma School. They moved after a few years to Stettler, Alberta and then to British Columbia. Their daughter Rose Walt taught for many years at the Red Deer Training School, and also in British Columbia. She and her husband Reginald Allison lived in Surrey, B.C. They had two children Barbara and Reginald. Barbara has a Masters degree in Social Work and Reginald is a high school teacher.



George Walt Family. George, Rose, Minnie, Elizabeth, Julia, Alvina, George Jr.

There were two Kingsep families — Henry in the Northern part of the district and Christian whose homestead bordered on the John Kask property. Henry left for Eckville, Alberta shortly after his wife had a frightening experience with Indians. While he was away working at Blairmore a large group of Indians came and took everything they had, including the bread she had just baked. Terrified, she fled to a

neighbors' about four miles away, carrying her three small children, one a baby. She was afraid they would come back and murder them all.

The Christian Kingsep family included Eustance and Kenneth who were well known in the district for many years, and whose children grew up and attended school there. I understand that both have now retired to the Okanagan, in B.C. Their mother, Tina, lived on her farm till her death.

To the extreme north of the district lived the Walls — mother, father, and two sons, Gustave and Matthew. Their daughter Maria and her husband Peter Herman homesteaded near them. They had eleven children — Lambert, Zelma, Leyda, Ella, Hilda, Herta, Naima, Madge, Paul, Lloyd and Karl. They all attended Norma School through the years. The father and mother later retired to Vancouver and their children moved to various places around the country. Lloyd continued to farm the old place until he was accidentally killed a few years ago. Hilda was for years a teacher in Alberta and finally Portland, Oregon where she now resides. Matt and Gus Wall are among the first to introduce machinery such as wood saws and threshing outfits in the district.



Alexander Kask Family — 1913. Elizabeth, John, Anna, Sophia, Victor and Alex.

My father Alexander Kask came to the area in 1900 and took his homestead about a quarter of a mile from Sylvan Lake which at that time was called Snake Lake, supposedly because there were a great many garter and king snakes by the lake. They said there were piles of them everywhere along the shore and through the woods. Conditions must have been just right for them to be so prolific.

Also there were a great many wild animals, big and small, and many that were new to the early settler. One evening as he was going home, my father noticed two pretty little black and white animals walking slowly on the trail ahead of him. He went to pick one up and found, to his sorrow, that it wasn't a cute pussy cat! He was lucky the lake was close and he dashed in fully clothed, to save his eyes.

Our homestead turned out to be a marvellous piece of property. The soil was pure black loam as far as you could dig, and everything grew for years without the addition of any fertilizer. There was a wide creek running through it from Sylvan Lake to Cygnet Lake so there was always fresh clean water for humans and animals. It was full of fish — pike and pickerel for the whole neighbourhood. There were prairie chickens and wild ducks galore and the woods were full of rabbits, so we had almost a guaranteed food supply all year round. Nevertheless it was a hard life at first, because everything had to be done by hand — clearing the land, building roads and finally the house from the logs that were cut. Not only did it take strength but also skill to do these things.

The first beasts of burden were of course, the oxen which were used for ploughing the rough land, as well as travelling to the nearest town, Red Deer, which was fourteen miles away. Going with oxen you were never quite sure just when you would get back again. I can remember a neighbor telling how he started on his journey early in the morning but on the way back the oxen just laid down in the middle of the road and no amount of prodding or beating would get them up again. They tried every method of torture they could think of, even to filling their nostrils with mud, to no avail. So you just had to sit and wait it out, maybe several hours, before they decided to get up, and continue on. No wonder horses were imported as soon as possible.

Then there was the problem of finding work to earn money to buy all the necessary animals, ploughs, wagons and tools, etc. There were very few industries in the Northwest Territories at that time, but with the opening of the coal mines in Blairmore, most of the men found work. The wages were about \$2.00 a day out of which they would save a few precious dollars by living in tents and "Batching". I



John and Alexander Kask camping at Blairmore Coal Mines in 1901.

can remember my father telling how they baked their bread by putting it into a large lard pail and then into the coals of their bonfire. The complaint was that while the outside was often burnt, the inside was still dough.

When he had finished building his log house he put on a sod roof, and built a brick wall fireplace. When the fire was put into this the heat would circulate around the room and the bricks would remain warm all night. The floor was left bare dirt as they found it was warmer this way. Later, of course, a shingle roof and wooden floor were added.

My mother came out in 1906. Her name was Anna Oppie. I can imagine her apprehension as a young girl boarding a boat alone, on a long journey, with her worldly possessions in a small trunk. At that time there were only wind blown sailboats and most were poorly equipped and it took a month or more to cross the Atlantic. Everybody was seasick, lying on the decks and in complete misery. The food too, was poor, and without medical aid many died. She said the most pitiful part was to see the young children suffering so much.

From Montreal she took the C.P.R. train to Red Deer. This too must have been an ordeal with the colonist trains which weren't really much better than cattle cars with their wooden benches and bunks. They were married in Red Deer in 1906. My brother Victor was born in 1907. I was born in 1908 and my brother John in 1911 and sister Sophie in 1912. We were all born at home with the aid of local midwives. There were no hospitals and doctors from Red Deer came only in emergencies. In one such emergency my father was chosen to gallop a team of horses and wagon at night into Red Deer, to pick up Dr. Parsons. The doctor said he would lay down on the hay in the

bottom of the wagon to finish his sleep, but soon discovered that was impossible with the wagon jumping up and down on the frozen, rutty road.

As the community grew there became a need for a school. My uncle John Kask donated two acres of land from his homestead for this, and all the neighbours got together and built the first school. It was built of logs and was finished in 1903. It did not open until May of 1904 and closed again in September, as it was too cold for use in the winter months. It was first called the Finland School. Later it was called Sylvan Lake School until 1910 when a school was built at Sylvan Lake. The first teacher was George Glover who was also a missionary and held church services there. There were eighteen students. Among these were the older children of the Webber, Faucher, Kingsep and Austin families. The next teacher, I believe, was a young medical student. A Mr. Storrie who later was a doctor in Edmonton. After him, no doubt, there were a succession of others. My cousin Marie Kask said she went to school with her sister, Julia, when Mr. Storrie was there. She was only four years old at the time. She later met Dr. Storrie when she attended the University of Alberta in Edmonton.

My brother Victor and I started school there in the fall of 1914. I was six years old and the first World War had already started. My first teacher was a Mr. Heustis, the son of a minister from Red Deer. He was nineteen years old, a wonderful person, and we all loved him. He enlisted in the Army at Christmas time and went overseas to do his duty. He was killed in France in February. What a loss! We all cried, and the meaning of the war was brought home to us in no uncertain terms, even as young as we were. Among the other teachers, I remember Mrs. Constance Austin because she played the piano well. But of all the teachers that I had at Norma one stands out, as the best I ever had there. Her name was Mrs. Schoonover and she came to us with her family, from Vancouver, British Columbia. Her husband had decided to go into farming in the district so they settled on my uncle John Kask's former homestead, and lived in the log house that he had built. She was hired when another teacher left in the middle of the term. She was a "born" teacher and made school interesting and enjoyable for all of us. She was an artist, musician and dramatist. She taught us oil painting and wrote plays for us to put on in concerts. Besides, she got the whole community behind the school in so many extra-curricular activities. I remember the Jiggs and Maggie concert we did. She dressed us all as characters from the comic strip and we put on an evening's concert. People from miles around came, and the audience looking in through the door and windows was as large as the one inside. With this we had a box



Back: Julie Walters, Sophia Wartnow, Michael Walters. Front: John Kask Family — Minnie, Olga, Julia, Marie, John.

social and made enough money to buy a new organ for the school and equip a library with dozens of books which were not only enjoyed by the children but all the people in the district. There were also concerts and plays and other social events put on by the young and older people with a great deal of enjoyment for all, and as a result, a good community spirit was developed. She had four children — Margaret, Earl, Lester and Gordon. Margaret and Earl started school at Norma. The whole family later moved to Oregon to continue dairy farming. She died there several years ago and all of the children are still living there.

It was right after the war that the terrible influenza epidemic swept the country. We even wore masks to school before they closed it. Our whole family became ill one after another, and in three days my mother and brother Victor were dead. The rest of us were all very ill too. In fact, I had double pneumonia, and a French druggist was credited with saving my life with an ice-pack method he used. That was a dreadful time, as people were dying every day and although the doctors did their best, they couldn't cope with the numbers, and there were no medicines that could help.

Although we lived in a near wilderness as children, we couldn't have been happier. Summers were beautiful with wild flowers and animals everywhere.

There were deer and moose in the woods although the buffalo were long gone. We had thousands of their bones among the trees. They were bleached white and later many people came and picked up the heads for souvenirs. One could imagine the herds of them there must have been before they were so mercilessly slaughtered. We could swim in our creek and in the lake. There were wild strawberries, saskatoons, raspberries, and blueberries and we could pick pails full of these for mother to can and make jam.

Unfortunately we often wandered off too far and I can remember my brother John being lost for quite a while before we found him in the woods not far from the lake. When I was about four, I had the habit of wandering off picking wild flowers along the ditches. On several occasions I had been brought home by neighbors who spotted me as they were passing by on the road. To stop this, our parents told us stories about gypsies and how they would pick up children like me and take us away forever. Even how they would put out our eyes with red hot needles. As a result we never dared go through the big gate again. We would run up to it and peek through, but if we saw anyone coming, we would run for dear life back to the house.

Not long after this, the gypsies actually did come. They travelled in caravans of covered wagons and carried everything with them, even cows and horses tied up behind these. More than likely everything they had was either begged for or stolen as they were a lazy people who did no work at all but managed to get by with their conniving means. Two women walked from the caravans on the road to our house. They were very flashily dressed. I remember the younger one especially, in typical gypsy costume, long flowered skirt and bright red blouse. She had huge round earrings and dozen of strands of beads and bracelets. She even had a red rose tucked in her long black hair. The first thing they asked for was our fat pet hen that was feeding her chicks in the front yard. When my mother shook her head the older woman, waving her hands in the air, shouted as if she was threatening us with all kinds of curses. My mother, I think, was terrified, because she was alone with us children, as father had gone to Red Deer and wouldn't be home till nightfall. She probably remembered some of the things that gypsies had done in the old country. She finally persuaded them to come to the back of the house. As they came stamping and swearing through the hall, we children dashed under the beds to hide. Mother finally got rid of them by giving them a sackful of young roosters as well as butter, cream and vegetables.

My father, brother and I continued to live on the farm for several years. John and I both attended

Sylvan School for Grade IX, then moved to Red Deer to finish high school. After graduation, John joined the Imperial Bank at Sylvan and continued working there until 1935. In 1926-27 I attended Camrose Teachers' College and taught at Caroline, Sundre, and Hanna before coming to Norma in 1930. I was there for about six years and will always have the fondest memories of that time. The children were most loveable, cooperative and willing and I really enjoyed teaching them.

My father passed away in 1931. Then we had a new house built in Sylvan Lake and rented the farm in 1932.

In 1936 John was married to Edna Eggen of Blackfalds. It was a beautiful full dress double wedding, with Edna's sister Helen as the other bride. The wedding was at Sylvan Lake Church and the reception at Dingwall's Hotel.

John was transferred to Sangudo in 1935 and then to Edmonton, Edson, Winnipeg, Port Arthur and Calgary, where he retired as manager in 1976, and now lives. Edna passed away suddenly in 1979. They have two daughters, Beverly Welsh, who trained as a nurse and now lives in Coquitlam, B.C., and Joan King who lives in Calgary.

I was married to Ernest Hughes in Red Deer on Oct, 12, 1936 and then moved to Vancouver, B.C. In 1939 we had a home built in Burnaby. We have two daughters, Sheila, who has a Bachelor of Music and is presently teaching piano at the Vancouver Academy of Music. Her husband, Dr. Walter Hardy is a professor of Physics at U.B.C. Lucille was a librarian and is now married to Douglas Little, a manager at B.C. Forest Products Ltd., in Vancouver.

I went back to teaching here in 1952 and continued for about fifteen years.

My husband passed away in 1969 and since retirement, I have done quite a lot of travelling to Europe, Far East, Japan, Taiwan, Phillipines, Australia, New Zealand and South America.

As I look back through the years from pioneer time to the present, it is almost unbelievable how much change has taken place. Now with so much interest in heritage, I am thankful I had the privilege of living in that early period of Alberta's history and have been able to watch its development from a primitive province to one of modern technology.

Keith Family

In July 1944 we moved from Regina to Three Hills and spent the summer there. At that time Doug was only three years old. He was born March 27, 1941.

We left Three Hills and purchased the Imperial Station at Sylvan Lake, in Oct. 44. It was being



Lorna and Bill Keith.

operated by a Mr. and Mrs. M. Greenway — but was known around the district as the “McCoig Station.” In 1946 we purchased the Kline farm and took a crack at farming in the Norma District.

We had a nice home and wonderful neighbors. It had to be one of the best communities, with everyone always pitching in on any task that needed doing, or helping any neighbors who needed a hand.

No one had much money, but fondest memories are of Christmas concerts, whist parties on Friday nights, and school picnics, and many more social activities held in the Norma School and district.

In 1952 we won the Provincial Championship for the best car load of malting barley. As a family this is something we’ve always been very proud of, as we felt we had all taken part in it.

Our summers were very busy with farming, but in winter we enjoyed curling and taking part in all the bonspiels in surrounding towns.

Peggy and Doug took dancing lessons in Sylvan Lake under the direction of Marion May.

Doug played ball with the “Durham” Ball Club in the district. He was also very active in the Boy Scouts Club in Sylvan Lake. He was involved with Teen Age Driving Rodeos, and won in the provincial finals, then went down to Galt, Ontario to compete in the dominion finals, coming in third.

Peggy took piano lessons from Mina Reiswig and was also quite involved with C.G.I.T.

Doug started school at Norma in 1947 and Peggy in 1950. In 1956 they closed the school and bussed the children to Red Deer.

By this time Doug had finished high school and went to Edmonton to University. He earned his Bachelor of Commerce and took one year of law, then moved to Port Alberni, B.C. to work for McMillan & Blodell for 2 years. He came back to Edmonton and



Doug Keith and Liz Collins married in 1965 in Scottish ceremony and dress.



Doug Keith Family. Fraser, Erin and Melissa.

took his Masters in Business Administration, then moved to Winnipeg and worked for Great West Life for three years. Still having the urge to live in Alberta they moved back to Edmonton. After working for the Alberta Government for a spell he is now working for Prest Hol’dt Management Limited, which is a financial planning development.

In 1965 he met and married Liz Collins from Edmonton. They have three children, Melissa, Fraser and Erin.

After Peggy finished high school she went into training at Calgary Gen. Hospital, receiving her R.N. in 1966. This was a big year for her as she married Terry Wilson of Red Deer in September. They moved to Edmonton. After nursing for two years she went back to University and got her B.Sc. and is still on the teaching staff at the University Hospital in Edmonton.



Terry and Peggy (Keith) Wilson with twins Crosby and Dustin.

In 1972 they had twin boys — Crosby and Dustin.

I am still living in the house in Red Deer and enjoy seeing the family quite often and seeing the grandchildren grow-up.

submitted by Lorna Keith

The Kingsep Family

by R. E. Kingsep

My father, Kenneth Kingsep, was born in Warroo, Estonia, in 1896. He immigrated to Canada with his parents, Christian and Christine Kingsep, in the year 1899. They travelled by boat to Montreal, by train to Red Deer and from there by oxen to the homestead, where the present Norma School is situated. SW¼-2-38-1-W5.



L. to R.: Ron, Bob, Carol, Jim and Ken Kingsep.

Dad, his two brothers and two sisters went to the original Norma School. Dad lived with his mother until the First World War. He joined the American Army and was sent to serve at the Panama Canal, where he became quite expert with small arms. I have several badges which he earned for sharp-shooting.

In 1933, he married Ivy Popham, who was born in Devon, England, and came to Canada when she was two years old. They homesteaded on the quarter, Section 2, Township 39-Range 28 W5.



Kingsep's new house after the fire — baby Gail Kingsep, 1940.

Their first son, Robert Edward, was born on March 18, 1934. Their second son, James Kenneth, was born March 18, 1937. A third son, Ronald William was born June 14, 1938. The fourth child, a daughter, Carol Ann, was born July 25, 1939. Their last child also a girl, Gail Marie, born on August 27, 1942.

One day, in 1940 after returning from town we found that our house had been completely destroyed by fire, only the chimney remained. Our new home was a frame house, built by Dave Garnes.

Our first neighbors were Mac Kline, Arthur Fauchers, Peter Walters, and our uncle Kingsep, who lived on the quarters next to us.

Dad cleaned most of his land by hand. Times may have been hard, but we had a lot of wild game to eat.

About 1949, Dad worked in the mines at Alix during the winter, coming back in the spring to work



Grandma Kingsep.

the farm. In 1954 he worked with the Alberta Pacific elevator crew throughout Alberta.

Mother passed away with a heart attack on Oct. 11, 1957, in Sylvan Lake. Dad continued to live on the farm until 1969 when he sold it to Ernie Walters. He then retired to Penticton, B.C. He moved back to Calgary, where he passed away on May 28, 1973.

I have worked around Sylvan Lake and Red Deer as a carpenter for the past twenty years. I married Mavis Wester in 1953. We have four children, all grown; Loree, Donald, Daniel and Kelly. Loree married Karl Letourneau and has two daughters, Devon and Auran.

My brother, James married Helen Fitzgerald, a nurse. They lived in Calgary until Jim passed away on October 30, 1970.

Ronald has lived most of his adult life in Vancouver. At present he is employed in Northern Alberta with the oil rigs.

Carol works as a cook in camps in the north country, presently in Rainbow Lake.

Gail married Gerald Smith of Sylvan Lake. They have a home near Leslieville and have two children, Michael and Angela.

One humorous memory of going to Norma School; Jim and Marion Ward were bringing a kettle of stew for our hot lunch. The kettle fell off the sleigh, tipping over, so they just scooped it all back into the kettle and continued on their way, few of us the wiser.

The Kleeburgers NW ¼-30-28-1-W4

My parents, Roy and Irma Kleeburger, came to the district in October 1937, from Assinaboia, Saskatchewan. They travelled by covered wagon with a family of seven (4 girls and 3 boys) Helen and Ellen (twins) Della and Leotta (twins) Earl, Leon and Glenn.

We lived on a farm owned by Mr. Wills until November 1938, at which time we moved to a place



The Kleeberger Family. Back left: Della, Leota, Earl, Helen, Ellen. Front L.: Roy, Leon, Irma and Glen.

on the north shore of Sylvan Lake. While living at the Will's place our neighbors were Bill Austins to the west, Millard Austin and Grandpa Lute to the east, the Abbrassart family to the south, and Brodersons to the north. My brothers, Leon, Earl and I attended Poplar Ridge School until the end of June, 1938. Leon and I attended Norma School from Sept. until Nov. 1938, when we moved, and then we attended Carrit School. Our teacher at Norma was Miss Byers now Mrs. Cliff Duffield.

As I mentioned, we came by covered wagon. My brother Leon and I rode horses bareback and chased 9 head of cattle almost 800 miles. It took about six weeks. We had 1 or 2 cows we could milk by sitting on a kitchen chair. We also had a goat that rode in a crate on the running board of the 1927 Chev car. There was a canary (Joe) that rode in a cage in the car, and Tiny, our little house dog. The girls took turns driving one wagon. We had two. Mom baked bread in the old coal and wood kitchen stove as we drove down the road. It would rise up with big air bubbles in the loaves. She would put some cream, skimmed off the milk in a two quarter sealer, toss it on a bed and by noon it would be churned into butter. So things weren't as tough as one might think.

Helen is married to Elgin Simpson. They live at Kamloops, B.C and have three boys.

Ellen is married to Frank Parry. They live in Red Deer and they have three boys.

Leotta is married to George Moore, they live east of Red Deer in the Balmoral district, they have two girls.

Della married Ray Tucker. They lived in Red Deer. They have two girls and one boy. Della passed away on Oct. 21, 1978 after a long illness. Ray and family still live in Red Deer.

Earl is married to Myrtle Ireland and they live in Bonanza, Alberta. (Second marriage for both).

Leon married Winnie Lynch, they live in Edmonton and have a boy and a girl.

I (Glenn) married Marjorie Teaque (a school day enemy) we live in the Eckville district. We have a boy and two girls, Tom and Cindy at Eckville and Kathy at Rocky Mountain House.

Dad passed away Dec. 24, 1947 after a short illness. Mom passed away July 26, 1970, doing what she liked to do most, working and visiting old friends.

Klien, S. L. (Mac) and Violet by Mina Reiswig

Mack and Vi came from Oyen in 1932 or 1933. They bought the W ½-12-39-1-W5 from Pete Herman. Zelma Giles owned this land before. Mack also bought E ½-11-39-1-W5 from Ed Lofgren. Bill and Lorna Keith bought the ½ section of 12 from Kliens' in 1946.



S. L. (Mac) and Vi. Klein.

Krebs, Henry and Helen NW 35-38-1-W5

Henry Krebs, son of Henry and Emilie Krebs, was born in Latvia in 1929. He came to Canada with his parents and older brother Harry in 1930. He grew up in the Creston Valley area and after his graduation from high school at Creston he went to Calgary where he worked in a butcher shop.

I, Helen Rita Krebs, daughter of Joseph and Eugenie Demers was born in Calgary in 1935. On completion of my education at Western High School I worked as a stenographer and teletype operator.

Henry and I were married in Calgary on June 24, 1955 and in 1956 moved to Moose Jaw where Henry

was asked to work in a meat business there. We lived in Moose Jaw for five years. While there Allan arrived on Jan. 29, 1957 and then Valerie two years later Dec. 30, 1958.

In June of 1961 we came to Red Deer, purchased the central Abattoir and operated this meat processing plant for 15 years. It was on March 3, 1962 that Wayne was born and on Nov. 9, 1965 Dale arrived to complete our family.



The Krebs Family — 1980. L. to R.: Wayne, Dale, Valerie, Helen, Henry and Allan.

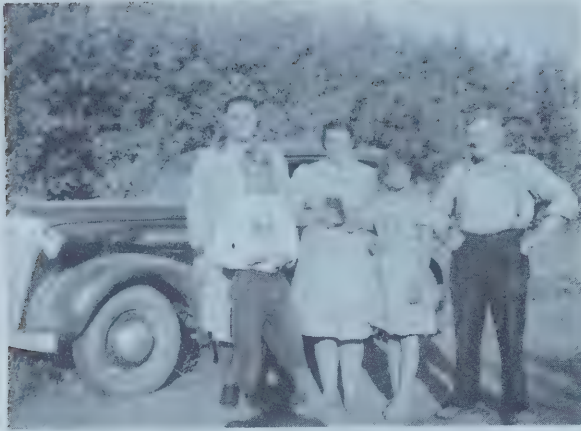
We purchased the West ½ of SE 35 and SW 35-38-1-W5 from W. J. Guenther in May, 1966 and the NW of 35-38-W-5 was bought from Frank Johnson in February 1968. We built our present home in 1973, providing an apartment over the garage for Mrs. Emilie Krebs, Henry's mother. Emilie was born in Poland on Nov. 2, 1892 and is of German descent.

We commuted to Red Deer while we still had the meat business and after it was sold in 1976 began farming full time, adding more land to our farming operation.

Our eldest son, Allan is employed as a heavy duty mechanic at R. Angus Caterpillar in Red Deer. Valerie is a law clerk at Edmonton. Wayne graduated from H. J. Cody High School in June 1980 and Dale will be entering grade 10 in the fall of 1980.

Chris Larsen by Lucielle Turner

No one knows when he moved from Denmark to Alberta.



Back: Jim Drew, Lilly, Irene and Chris Larson. Front: Jim Jr.

In 1935 he came from Bentley to this district to make his stand.

Bachelor Chris lived atop Fifth Meridian hill. He peddled meat, ice and products from his still! He helped with harvests and carpentered round and about.

Chris was well known by his dog Aberhart and his old "Dallapy" truck.

In '55 he moved his house to Red Deer to work and try his luck.

1959 saw him move to Vancouver Island to fish and live by the sea.

Chris lived a long and happy life and died in his nineties in '78 in B.C.

Thomas Raingill Lea

Thomas Raingill Lea came to Canada and the Lacombe area from Chester, England in 1911. He worked for a short time on a farm for Tom Roberts, then returned to England for a year. With his brother Lionel and their parents, they homesteaded at Earl Gray, Saskatchewan. Their father died and was buried at Earl Gray and their mother then returned to England.

In 1929, Tom married Gertrude Marie Kiehl, born at Earl Gray, of German parents from Danzig.

Before the wedding Tom sold his homestead and rented $\frac{3}{4}$'s of land nearby, Lionel rented another $\frac{1}{2}$ and boarded with Tom and Gertie.

Their first child, a boy died when he was ten days old. A girl, Mary, was born in 1931 and Dennis in 1935. They both attended the same school that their mother had in Earl Gray.

In 1946, Tom decided to buy his own farm in Alberta and, purchased one at Sylvan Lake — NW $\frac{1}{4}$ 34-38-1-W5.

Furniture, a team of horses, six cows and the dog

were loaded into a box car. Lionel travelled with the freight train, the rest of the family by passenger train.

Mary attended Norma School for Grade 9 and Sylvan Lake school for grade 10. Dennis attended Norma School for two years.

In Oct. 1948, Tom decided the farm wasn't large enough, sold it and bought three quarters at Clive. Mary took her grade 11 at Clive and finished her schooling in Lacombe and worked at the Royal Bank. In 1952 she married Peter Robertson, of Clive. They have three daughters; Judith (Mrs. Joe Cronin of Ponoka); Patricia (Mrs. Bob Cardell of Red Deer); Catherine is attending high school in Lacombe. Judith has a son, two year old Stephen.

For 20 years they lived in various parts of the country, but have been in Clive since 1973.

Alphonse Lemoine

Alphonse Lemoine was a baker in France. In 1906 he came to Canada with his wife Angele and two year old daughter Germaine.

They came to the French Colony east of Sylvan Lake as did so many at that time. They knew many of the folks settled there, amongst them was Zelig Dath with her husband Nestor and their son Fernand and daughter Marthe. Zelig Dath was a sister to Angele Lemoine.



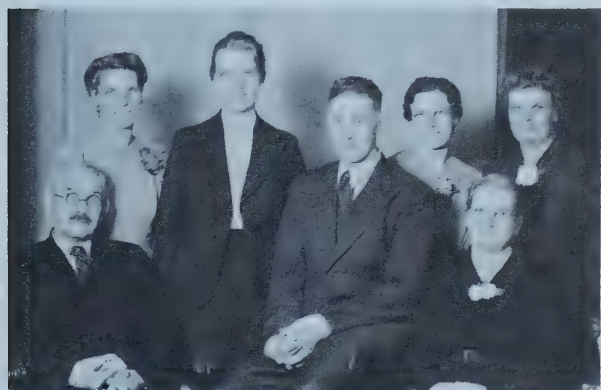
Alphonse and Laurette Lamoine in 1936.

The time that Lemoine spent at the Colony is unknown. Alphonse worked at Frank, Alta. for a short while before returning to the Norma District where he bought SE 34-38-1-W5th from Dr. Tanche the leader of the French Colony. In 1927 he bought and moved to NE 34-38-1-W5th. They lived in the old house on the place and began building a new home. One who helped them build was Bernard Schenk, who arrived in the Norma District from Switzerland earlier in the year. The house built in 1927-28 was torn down and moved away in 1980.

Mrs. Angele Lemoine passed away in 1928. Alphonse returned to France about 1930 where he married Laurette Le Long. They came back to the farm where they lived until 1936 when he rented the land to Henry Ward and his bride. They went back to France where Alphonse passed away about 1939.

Lindman Family by Molly Lindman

Carl Fredrik Hallstrand was born April 10, 1839 at Bergvik, Helsingland, Sweden. He was married there. His wife Marie passed away when their son Axel John was seven years old. Because Carl was not able to maintain a home life, Axel was placed in the home of a family named Lindman, whose name he adopted.



Asel Lindman Family — 1943. Back: Olga, Ruth, Florence, Esther. Front: Axel, John, Mary Charlotte.

Carl Fredrik was re-married and with a family of five immigrated to USA in the early 1890's.

They lived in Wisconsin until about 1900 when Carl Fredrik and the two youngest children, Carl and Tillie came to Alberta and the Norma District and filed on a homestead located NE 34-38-1-W5. This is on the northwest side of Burnt Lake along where the outlet of Sylvan Lake flowed into Sylvan Lake. It was told that Carl loved fishing and was a great horticulturist and gardener. It was his hope to pursue these interests in an enterprise here in Canada but because of the frosty conditions in this area this didn't materialize.

In 1903 Carl Fredrik, his son Carl, and daughter Tillie returned to Wisconsin, so as to afford Tillie the opportunity to further her education. He passed away in 1908.

Axel John Lindman, son of Carl Fredrik and Marie Hallstrand was born in 1875 at Bergnuik, Sweden. He worked in the woods and charcoal kiln as a young lad. In 1893 he boarded a steamship at Goteberg Sweden, which sailed to America arriving

at Massachusetts. Employment was obtained on farms and lumber camps in Wisconsin.

Before the turn of the century, approximately 1899, Axel came to Canada. He filed on homestead NW 10-39-1-W5, north of Sylvan Lake in the Norma District.

While making improvements on the homestead, Axel stayed at the Loisselle home at Sylvan Lake. He worked at Anthracite Coal Mine in Canmore in the winter. After about three years, when he had proved up the homestead, he traded it for a mare and colt. Today this is a valuable piece of property. Axel purchased a quarter section of CPR land NE 23-38-1-W5 which was the permanent home. They built a log house in 1903.

Axel was chairman of the first school board of Norma District, and was a councillor for the Local Improvement District for a time. He was on the first board of directors when the UFA local was organized in 1908.

Axel and Marie Charlotte Lindholm were married in 1903 at the Indian Industrial School west of Red Deer. Marie was the eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Lindholm, a pioneer family of the Burnt Lake District, who came from Sweden in 1895. She had three brothers and two sisters.

Axel and Maria had a family of five children, Esther — Mrs. August Knoepflie; Florence — Mrs. Carl Anderson, Shady Nook; Ruth Lindman is in evangelistic work; Olga — Mrs. Sidney Thompson, Bentley and John.

Axel, industrious and strong, cheerfully enjoyed hard work. Most of the CPR land he cleared by hand, and did the breaking with horses.

The years of 1910-12 he worked on the CPR track grade which was being built for the rail line between Red Deer and Sylvan Lake. This line skirts along the edge of the farm.

Shortly after a new larger frame house was erected, here they could accommodate a good number of people and many times coffee and lunch was served after a community skating party on Burnt lake, or socials of a kind. They loved to have people come and visit.

Maria looked forward to berry picking time, and blueberries were plentiful nearby, as close as 1 ½ miles west.

In the late 1920's it was decided to purchase an organ. One was purchased in Red Deer, and Maria, an able horsewoman, drove the team Jack and Lily to pick it up. It was loaded at the station, and now ready for the trip home. Unknown to Maria, Jack had rubbed his bridle off, he spooked and commenced a runaway. With good fortune, a Red Deer Implement Business man and an able horseman got the horses

under control by jumping on the horses neck and holding a hand over his nostril. The organ and all got to its destination unharmed.

Axel loved innocent pranks. There was the time when he willingly helped “Ma” replace the grates in the kitchen range. In the attempt what with getting them in reverse order and all, there was a bit of stress in the air. Ma said, “You and John had better go and do the chores and I’ll do this.” With sooty hands Axel stroked her face and said, “Yes, dear”, and they left. On the way to the barn the men decided to bide for time and completely do the chores. When they came in later, breakfast was ready. Ma understood the delay and said, “It took so long to do the chores this morning!”

The mixed farming operation was carried on by them until 1938 when their son John took over the farm.

Axel and Maria stayed on the farm and lived in their home there. Axel at the age of 71 passed away in 1946, and Maria in 1967 at the age of 85. There were five children, ten grandchildren and fifteen great-grandchildren at that time.



Axel, Charlotte Lindman. Jean, Esther, Allan and Henry.

Esther and her husband August Knoepfli made their first home after their marriage in the Norma District, 1926-27, living on the “Webber” place NE-3-39-1-W5. Their daughter Jean was born while they lived there. They moved from here to farms in Benalto and south of Sylvan Lake. In 1931 they moved to the Peace River country, where the family still resides, 18 miles northeast of Fairview. Their son Allen and family now farm the land. August passed away in 1942.

John Axel Lindman was the youngest member of Axel and Charlotte Lindman’s family. He was born in 1919. He still resides on the family farm and has acquired additional property. He carried on the mix-

ed farming enterprise and also carried a cattle buyers license for several years.

He attended Norma School for a short while and had Elizabeth Kask for a teacher. He travelled across Burnt Lake on horseback. Any other mode of travel wasn’t feasible, so his sisters were not able to attend the district school, but went to Sylvan Lake, where John got the majority of his schooling.



John Lindman Family — 1968. Back: Murray and Doris, Front: Molly and John.

In 1942 John married Molly Frisch of Pine Hill District. They have two children. Murray — married Edith Ann MacDonald of Ontario. They live in Edmonton. Doris — married Barry Paulson of Edmonton. They have two children Richard Lee and Katherine Ann. Their home is in Standard, Alberta.

As a lad John enjoyed animals. Horses were his pets. He learned at an early age to diagnose and treat or medicate for their ailments, and in this way he was always willing to help his neighbors when they called.

After the farming became mechanized, and now that he is semi-retired, the cycle has returned. He has six horses again. “His Hobby.” They are used to go trail riding in the mountains with family and friends. They are all broken to drive in harness and are used to give pleasure rides and drives at home.

John and I (Molly) love sharing these times with friends. Our home is always open to social gatherings, with family, neighbors and community.

We love this place — It is isolated from road traffic and a quiet recluse. But that will soon end as the survey has already been made through here for the new No. 11 Highway from Red Deer to Benalto.

There you have progress . . .

Loiselle, Alexander

Coming from Saginaw, Michigan, but a native of Quebec, Mr. and Mrs. Loiselle came to Sylvan Lake (then known as Snake Lake) in the fall of 1899. In his party were Joe Boquet, Pete St. Peter, his daughter in law, Mrs. Hattie Loiselle and her two children and the Adelard Faucher family. In December of 1899 one month later, Mrs. Loiselle with daughters Della and Clara, sons Arthur, Jerry, Albert, Dolphus and John came to live in the new log cabin with a sod roof. Mr. Loiselle filed a homestead in the spring of 1900 which is now that part of town west of Main Street and the Sylvan Lake Golf Course. Also at Kosota Beach United Church Camp.



Art and Goldie Loiselle and his mother Henrietta.

In 1905 he built the first Sylvan Lake Hotel, which had 16 rooms and was in connection with a store and post office. A few years later the hotel was sold to a Mr. Rutter. (Rutters Hotel) later bought back by Mr. Loiselle who renamed it the Sylvan Lake Hotel. In 1909 they built a boarding house in Red Deer. In 1911 he built the Alexander Hotel, now the site of the Golf Club Parking lot.

The railroads going West from Red Deer were built, and this hotel was well built and passed inspection for a liquor license. It was a hotel for eleven years then apartments for two years before it burnt down.

Mr. Loiselle had a saw mill which he managed, and a shoe and harness repair shop. Mr. Boquette ran the mill and the children helped manage other projects.

There were twelve children and in August of 1921

they gathered the family and friends around and celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

In 1925 Mr. Loiselle built the Alexander Pavilion (Prom Hall) which later burned.

Clara married Agden Wilkinson. They moved to Antler Lodge from Red Deer and ran a boarding house and telephone exchange with beauty parlor.

Della married Roy Wells who was a carpenter. They worked with Mr. Loiselle then moved to Nanton for five years. After Roy's passing Della came back to Sylvan Lake and married Henry Hussfeldt. They built the big dance hall on the Lake. All the



Alexander Hotel, Sylvan Lake. Built 1911 — burnt 1924.

Loiselle boys left Sylvan. Their daughter Alexina was killed at the saw mill. Arthur married Goldie Prevo. Laura, Alex Reed.

Jessie Prevo married (Boob) Loiselle. Jessie's son Billie, went to Norma School staying with Grandma Prevo.

Mrs. Loiselle passed away in 1930 at 78, one year short of their 60th anniversary. Mr. Loiselle passed away in 1932 at the age of 82.

Ludwig — Harold and Patricia by Molly Lindman

Harold Robert Ludwig was born in Zwaaswesteinde, Friesland, Holland. In 1952, at the age of 17 he came with his parents, Harry and Ann Ludwig, three brothers and four sisters to Canada. They landed by boat at Halifax and travelled five days by rail to their destination, Rocky Mountain House, Alta. After a few months the family moved to Sylvan Lake where they lived about a year, and from there they moved to Red Deer.

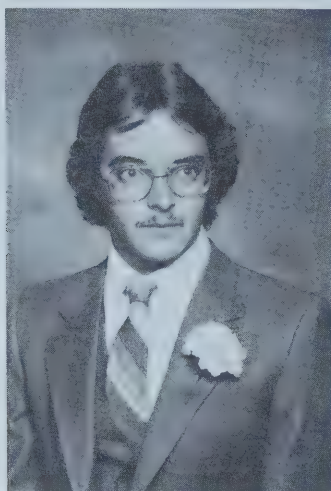
Harold received his schooling in Holland, becoming a tradesman in sign writing while in Red Deer.

In 1959 he was married to Patricia Ann Skelton at the Red Deer Christian Reformed Church.

Pat was born in 1941 and lived with her parents,



Harold Ludwig Family. L. to R. top: Susan, Karla, Pat, Dean, and Harold. Below: Tracey and Pauline.



Peter Ludwig.



Arabian Gelding, Marro Bokarah. Reserve Champion at Red Deer Horse show in 1977.

Art and Ann and a brother Roy on a farm east of Lacombe. She attended Lakeside School.

After their marriage, Harold and Pat lived in Red Deer twelve years, where Harold was employed by the city.

They have six children, Peter Harry John, Susan Annette, Tracy Carol, Pauline Irene, Dean Arthur, and Karla Dorothy.

In 1971 they bought the acreage on NW ¼-27-38-R1-Wt from Mr. and Mrs. Bob Hanson, who relocated to an acreage 2½ miles south, in the Burnt Lake District.

The Ludwig children attended school in Sylvan Lake. Two of them are now on their own. Tracy is an avid long distance runner and has received many awards in Track and Field competitions. Pauline, like her mother loves horses. Dean is following his fathers footsteps, talented in painting and woodwork. Karla also spends lots of time with the horses.

Pat is an adept seamstress and loves her Arabian horses. She is a member of Parkland Arabian Association and has raised and sold some outstanding horses. The sign Few Acres Arabians on their driveway attributes to that. Their gelding Marro Bokarah merited Reserve Champion at the Red Deer Horse Show in 1977.

Harold has set up a shop where he is using his skill as a sign writer, and is kept very busy. He is also building up a small herd of Salers cattle.

Mahoney, Dan and Doreen **SE½ 3-39-1-W5**

Dan was born in Low, Quebec, the oldest son of a family of twelve children born to John and Julia Mahoney. He attended school and worked on his family's farm until his mid-teens. After leaving school he worked in the lumber camps in the Gatineau Valley. Gradually he went further afield to Ontario, working in the signal department of the



Sean, Doreen and Dan Mahoney on steps of Parliament Buildings, Ottawa, 1977.



Dodie and Patricia Mahoney showing off mom's catch.

CPR, then eventually came out West on the harvest excursions. Dan liked the country out here and finally came out to stay in the late 1940's. He worked at various jobs in B.C. and Alberta until settling in Sylvan Lake in 1951.

Doreen was raised on the family farm just east of Sylvan Lake in the Norma School District. She is the third child of the late George and Isabel Daley. Doreen attended eight of her first nine years in school in Norma then completed her high school at Sylvan Lake High School. After graduation she went to work in the Imperial Bank of Canada until her marriage in 1951.

Dan and Doreen lived in the Town of Sylvan Lake until the passing of Doreen's father in 1970, when they purchased the home farm and moved back into the country. Three children were born while living in Sylvan Lake. Patricia who lives in Red Deer has four children. Doreen (Dodie) is an Engineering Graphic Tech graduate and is working in Calgary. Michael is still at home and working in Red Deer.

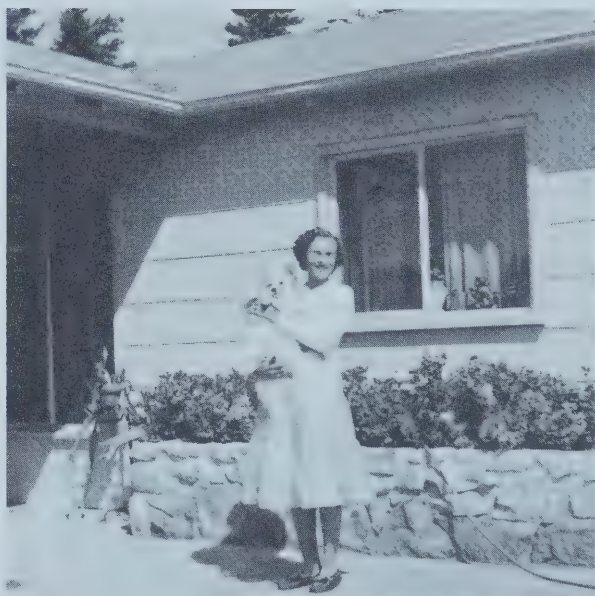
Donald McLeod by Norma McLeod

We moved to the Norma District in the fall of 1935 and lived with my folks, Will and Lee Gardner for three years. We then moved into Sylvan Lake. In 1940 we moved to Bellevue, Alberta where Donald did carpenter work. In 1942 we moved back to Sylvan Lake while Donald continued to do carpenter work along the Alaska highway for a few months. From then on he worked as a carpenter in Red Deer and district.

We moved to Maple Ridge, B.C. in May, 1967 where we have retired.



The McLeod Family. Front: Donald, Norma, Kenneth, Richard, Ronald and Lorne.



Diane Gardner, raised by Donald and Norma McLeod.

We have four sons:

Ronald Gordon, born at Sylvan Nov. 4, 1935. Ronald married Erika Schmidtke of Morden, Manitoba. They live in Calgary and have one son, Brent.

Kenneth Lee was born at Sylvan Lake October 30, 1936. Both Kenneth and Ronald attended Norma School for two years. Kenneth married Marian Johnson of the Pine Hill district. They have three children, Theresa Lyn, Ricky and Sharon, all born in Red Deer. They live in the Burnt Lake District.

Lorne Harvey was born in Bentley and married Margaret Smith of Sylvan Lake. They now live in Red Deer. They had three children. Donna, Danny and Donald. Donald passed away in Jan. 1968.

Richard Sawyer, born at Red Deer on June 4th,

1943. Richard married Bernice Homan of Red Deer. They have one son Louis born in Red Deer. Bernice has three children by her former marriage. They are Rick, Tammy and Billy.

We raised my niece Diane Gardner, we took her at two years of age. She is just like our own daughter. She married Ken Crosswell of Red Deer. They have two children, Kelly and Darren both born in Red Deer.

Donald is still active, his eye sight is very poor now. He keeps busy making spoon racks and other knick-knacks. My hobbies are quilting, crocheting and lapidary work.

The McWade Family

Jack and Verna McWade moved into the district on July 1st, 1973. The property, SW 27-38-1-5 was purchased from W. Dymenco and consists of approximately 90 acres. The McWade's had lived in Red Deer for 13 years. They have a family of two boys, Mike and Robbie. Michael, married Marlene Dirsten of Sylvan Lake on August 2nd, 1980 and resides in Red Deer. Rob is still at home and is presently attending school at Sylvan Lake. Rob is interested in hockey and horses and enjoys the farm.

Jack was born in Ponoka, Alberta and with his brother Bill received his schooling there. His father, deceased, William Emery (Bill) came from Belfast, Ireland. Jack's mother also came from Ireland.



The McWade Family. Rob, Jack, Verna and Mike.

Verna (Tisdale) is from Red Deer. Verna's mother Virginia Howell is from Red Deer. Verna has two sisters and one brother. Verna enjoys sports and also farm life.

The McWade's were married in September, 1960.

Jack is General Manager of Central Equipment Rentals and Sales in Red Deer. He raises quarter horses and also enjoys fishing and the outdoors.

We are happy to have joined this community.

Mosier, Joe

Joe came from Saginaw, Michigan in 1898 with the other bachelors. He farmed kitty corner for our section. There wasn't a better housekeeper than Joe, everything was spotless. He was a good farmer and took great care of his livestock. When my dad was sick Joe used to come to help us a lot, taking our pigs to market in Red Deer.

I remember well how he taught me to strike land for plowing. My dad couldn't figure out how I did it. When Dad and I went hunting deer we always stopped at Joe's for coffee.

Walsh Petro

by Cora (Petro) Mustard
NW ¼-3-29-1W of 5

I am the only one left of a family of twelve children born to Horace Greeley Petro and Aletha (Cox) Petro. My mother had lost five children before I was born. There were seven of us who came to Canada in 1900 — 4 girls and 3 boys.

Mary, passed away in 1957, married Vere Miller. Edith, who died in 1963, married Andrew Bigam. Elmer, married Bertha Brown, died in 1964. Rose married to Fred Carrett died in 1965. My two brothers Marshall and Clarence died in 1966.

The first six years in Canada were spent near Markerville where my Uncle Walsh and grandfather had built two cabins. One for mother and children and the other for uncle and grandfather.

We had not been in Canada long when grandfather became ill, and we moved over to their cabin so my mother could look after him and cook for the men. He died in 1902 and there was so much mud and no real roads that it was impossible to get to the cemetery, so he was buried on the farm.

My uncle planned to have the remains moved to the cemetery later, but by the time he could afford to, it was too late as the farmer who had bought the farm had taken down the fence and chopped down the tree at the head of the grave and planted wheat over the whole field.

My dear kind Uncle Walsh, from that time on took responsibility for his brother's family. He came



Walsh Petro.

to Canada in 1899 taking up a homestead near Markerville and buying land at Sylvan Lake.

While living at Markerville, Red Deer our nearest town was twenty-one miles distant. It took two days to make the trip and do the buying. Sometimes it would take part of the third day as quite often one got stuck in the mud which was often hub deep. I well remember one of those times. My uncle came home walking, driving the team with no wagon. It had been stuck in the mud several miles back. He told us there was a barrel of apples on it. We were most anxious until they arrived with the load the next day. Everything was bought in large quantities as the trip was not made often: Flour and sugar were bought by the hundred pounds, salt by the keg etc.

When we moved to Sylvan Lake in 1906 we were only 15 miles from Red Deer and the round trip could be made in one long day. There were farmers along the way who worked roads to pay taxes, so the trip was much easier. On our first trip to Sylvan Lake we travelled quite a distance on corduroy road along the east side of the lake. The lake in those early days came right up to the trees at times.

In those days in Canada there had to be a lookout for fires. As soon as smoke was seen, the wagon would be loaded with barrels, filled with water and with gunny sacks to wet and fight fire. Many times there were furrows plowed and back fires built to save hay stacks and buildings.

My uncle was always ready to give a helping



Fanny Matheson (step-daughter of Uncle Charlie Petro), Mary Miller, Alex Kelso, Wash Petro, Aletha Petro, Bill Pickering, Marshall Petro, Clarence Petro. Seated: Edward Miller, Babe Matheson, Mrs. Bill Pickering, Rose Petro, Roy Miller. Seated right: Buster Matheson.

hand when needed. I am sure there was never a kinder man. He often lent money. He doctored animals for which he was sometimes paid.

This land was purchased by my uncle in 1899 and sold to Mr. Barker at his death, as far as I know, Mr. Barker still owns it.

Uncle also had a well driller which was run by horse power. The horse went round and around in a circle pulling the drill up and letting it drop. Often these bills weren't paid, and if they couldn't pay he just let it go. He was Uncle Walsh to everyone.

When Uncle arrived at Sylvan Lake in 1899, Alex Loisel had a saw mill on the south side of the creek, which at that time ran from Sylvan Lake to Burnt Lake. Fish were very plentiful in those days and were taken by the hundreds. At this time we could snare them. Then there was a law against snaring and we had to use a hook; which wasn't fun after the ease of snaring under them. By the time we moved to Sylvan Lake the Loisel family had moved to Sylvan Lake too. Much later Mr. Loisel built a hotel near the lake shore. There were no Loisels at the Norma School when we moved there. There were Faucher and Weber families. The rest were mostly Finlanders. This is why at the time it was called Finland School.

Those early days were very hard on mothers as some of the children had head lice. Bed bugs were a real menace. When they got started in those old houses it was a losing battle against them until sprays were invented. No one could possibly realize the struggle unless they lived then. Bed springs had wooden sides and any place with the slightest crack would be infested. My mother would take bed springs outside and pour coal oil over them. Sometimes houses were fumigated with sulphur and

brimstone. Mrs. Faucher sent a remedy to one of the mothers to kill lice, but she said she wouldn't ruin her girls hair with it.

My mother kept a keen watch and if she saw one of us scratch our head, it was, "Come Here", in a tone of voice that we knew. We were to get down on our knees with head in mother's lap while she found the culprit. I don't think she ever failed to find one as she had much practice.

Mr. Storrie was our first teacher. He became a doctor later with a practice in Edmonton. He came to visit at our home on the week-ends. I remember once when he was there he said he had watched a race that day between a bed bug, a louse and a flea. Of course the race was a joke but he had seen the critters.

I remember twenty pupils who went to Norma School but I am quite sure there were never 20 students at any one time, as children quit at a very early age and worked on farms for the parents.

Other teachers were: Miss Sadie Fulmer, and Miss Addie McLaughlin, the latter had finished grade seven in Red Deer and came out to teach us. I left for school in Red Deer to attend grade seven. At that time I could only go home at Christmas, Easter and Summer holidays. It would take too much time to go for me and take me back just for a week end. When the rail road went through Sylvan Lake I could go home by train if I could afford it.

I remember Mr. Storrie, our teacher, invited us Petro children to eat our lunch in his teacherage one day. He dished out a large plate of canned tomatoes, the first tomatoes I had ever tasted canned. To me they were the most repulsive thing I had ever eaten. I tasted my first banana after moving here also. It too had a horrible taste.

We walked 1½ miles to school, sometimes through thunder and lightning storms, the like of which we never have now. Poor old mother would come to meet us at these times.

Our entertainment consisted of playing with our neighbors. The very special event was on Sunday when there were two gallons of ice cream, one vanilla and one lemon. Sometimes wild strawberries would be added. My brother Marshall was the one who usually went to the ice house, bought the lump of ice, put it in a tub and chopped it fine enough to go into the container for the gallon of cream to be frozen. He was also the most willing to crank the turner. Ice and salt had to be added as the ice melted. Many neighbors and friends came to enjoy it with us.

One of our games when we were little was "Skip to my Lou, My Darling". It was not popular with my uncle as he thought it was too much like dancing and he did not approve. In fact he offered my eldest sister a horse if she wouldn't go to a dance until she was 21.



Stella Weber, Elmer Petro, Bertha and John Bigam. Middle: Aletha Petro. Children: Ed Miller, Connie and Guy Miller and Norman Bigam.

She didn't win. He promised it to the next sister too but she didn't win either.

We never attended church or Sunday School, as there was none. My first experience of Sunday School was at 14 when I went to Red Deer to school. While there our minister's wife organized a CGIT Club. We went to Sylvan one summer and camped on the west side of the lake. One of the girls was a keen basketball player and wore her basketball costume, middie bloomers, into the hamlet. She was told by the policeman not to come again in that garb. If he could come back today and see the garb worn at the beach, I'm sure he would not know what to say.

My brother was very fond of a man who was learning English. He loved to hear him talk as he made himself very clear. One day this man was



Back Row: Fred Carritt, Vere Miller, Cora Petro, Edith Bigam, Gordon Bigam and Elmer Petro. Middle row: Rose Petro holding Roy Miller, Mary Miller. Front row: Ed Miller, Guy Miller and Connie Miller.

walking along the lakeshore and a little animal came out of the woods, acting as though it needed a friend. He thought it had lost its mother, so decided to pick it up and take it home and feed it. But when he caught it by the tail it retaliated in the only way skunks can, and the poor man went into the lake and washed and washed. It took more than cold water to rid him of that smell. It would seem they didn't have skunks in Finland.

Red Deer people started building cabins at Sylvan Lake. North of Red Deer road was called Lower Camp, and those who built where the town is now was called Upper Camp. They would come to the farm for milk and sometimes we delivered it to them in a milk pail carried on a stick between us. We carried a quart measure and gave each customer a quart. The milk had been strained through a strainer with a cloth inside. Later when my brothers started a dairy the filters they had to use were so thick that one could milk a cow while the first pail filtered. When we delivered milk we got five cents a quart for it.

No one was ever sorry for listening to a visitor from Canada who had praised Alberta so highly. It was an easy place to earn a living. He said wild fruit was so plentiful that wagon wheels would be red with crushed berries. We found this was so. Often the Loiselle families would come out where we lived at Markerville to pick blueberries. I especially remember the Louis Loiselle family as they had a daughter near my age. Those were happy times for us. They also lived at Sylvan Lake while we were there.

Will and Cora (Petro) Mustard Story

In 1918 I, Cora Petro, married Will Mustard of the Markerville district. We lived on his father's farm for two years.

Will had worked for Otto Brothers who were guide and outfitters in Jasper Park. Since the farm was not large enough to support two families we decided to go to Mountain Park and start our own outfitting business.

His father said he would not stay on the farm if Will left. Though Will felt his dad was too old and his brother too young, they did sell everything and go into a three way partnership. Will had always sent money home to help on the farm if he worked for others. He had already sold his homestead and invested the money into stock on the farm.

Everything was sold and the men went to the Morley Indian Reserve and bought most of the horses there to fill three railcars of pack and saddle horses.

The saddle horses were very popular in Mountain Park, as they were the first ones there and people rented many each Sunday.

We moved to Jasper Park in 1928. It was not long

after this that the bottom dropped out of the outfitting business as hunters were afraid to leave their businesses in those hard years of the thirties. One man on returning to Jasper after a 30 day trip found he had lost thousands on the stock market.

Will went in for road work then. He was foreman on the start of the Banff Jasper Highway. These were hard times and Will had men from all walks of life working under him. They worked for their room and board and \$5.00 a month. Will received \$70.00 a month as foreman.

We then moved to McBride, B.C. A couple of years or so later our son Vern went back to Jasper to work for Jack Brewster. By this time the road had gone as far as the Columbia Icefields. Vern was hired by Brewster Lines to take tourists from there to where the road from Banff ended. This was by saddle and pack horse. By the next summer the two roads met.

When we moved to an acreage at McBride, B.C. in 1935 Will kept on with road work. When the Japanese were sent from Vancouver in war time he had many working under him at the headquarters camp at Red Pass. They were very well mannered if radio news sounded good for the allies, but not so good if the news seemed to be going better for the Japanese.

While my husband worked there our house burnt down and though he worked for some lumber to build another, they would not let him have it as it had to go for war purposes. We moved to Pinchy Lake where a mercury mine had opened up. He built houses for the new camps for a year, then he was transferred to Kimberly, B.C.

From there we returned to McBride. Our son Vern remained there. He married Fern Pearce a teacher who came from Vancouver. He worked very hard to get a dairy farm started and had it just making money when his health failed and he had to sell all his beautiful milk cows and the farm with all equipment installed and a thousand dollar milk quota.

After operations and a return of health, he went into the building business. He has become well known and has been asked to build houses in places other than McBride.

He has one son, now in the RCMP who has two sons, the only two left to carry on the name.

Our eldest daughter married Robert McDonald, formerly of Red Deer. He has always had poor health and Sylvia has had to be bread winner for several years now. She started a catering business which they both worked at for a number of years. His health became worse and the work was too much for her. She now is working at the Harrison Hot Springs

Hotel as hostess and Public Relations director. They have four children 3 girls and 1 boy.

Our second daughter lives at MacKenzie, B.C. where they have a twelve suite manor. She has always been a keen reader and was district manager for the World Book. She travelled many miles while in this business helping her representatives and training them. She is now collecting information on the north country for a book. She had three children, two girls and a boy. Their son was drowned in saving the life of a friend in a canoe. This act of bravery has been recognized by the government.

Our youngest daughter, Lois, worked in a store in McBride and learned the business well. This proved profitable when she came back to Drayton Valley, Alberta with us in 1954. She married Tom Ross, formerly of Markerville, and they went into business at Viking, Alberta. They are now back in Drayton Valley where he is in real estate and Lois is working with the retarded. She finds they need much understanding and patience. They are lovable people. I have twelve grandchildren and sixteen great-grandchildren.

Nagy, Ernie and Kay

Ernie and Kay and sons, Rod, Grant, Ken and James moved to the Norma School District on Nov. 1, 1979. Ernie was transferred from Edmonton with the Motor Transport Branch, Alberta Transportation and works out of the new Provincial Building in Red Deer.

We are happy to be living in Central Alberta and hope to spend many years in this community.



Ernie and Kay Nagy and sons Rod, Grant, Ken and James. Old Norma School property.

We live on Pt SW-2-39-1-W5th in the Norma School District. Molly and Bill Scott, Ron and Cathy Streich were former owners.

Oscar and Caroline Norby.

Mr. Norby, a native of Sweden was born in 1874. He immigrated to North Dakota, U.S.A. at the age of 18. He started farming there. In the late 1800's he immigrated to Canada. He brought his belongings, including plow, harrow, disc and binder, in a wagon box drawn by three horses. He travelled about thirty miles per day. He first settled in the Willowdale district, east of Red Deer. Here he met and married Caroline Coghill in 1902.



The Oscar Norby Family before 1927 and farm registration. Back: May, Walter, Ruth, Pearl, Mr. Norby, Mrs. Norby. Front: Edward, Esther Andrew.

The Oscar Norby family came from the Burnt Lake district to the Norma district and lived here approximately a year in 1925-26. They lived in an extra house on the Herman farm, SE-12-39-1-W5th.

Oscar and Caroline had a family of seven children; Walter, Mae, Pearl, Ruth, Esther, and twins Andrew and Edward.

While they lived here it was the last year the family unit was complete. Walter, a lineman with an electric power company, died accidentally in 1927 while working at Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan.

Pearl was married to Manley Viste of Hanna while the family lived here.

Andy and Eddie went to Norma School, walking approximately two and one half miles on the C.N.R. railroad. The school was on the north side of the tracks then. They remember having to hike down the bank when the trains came. They recall going through Prevo and were well acquainted with the family employed at the elevator there. They used to play with their children.

Miss Louise Kenny was teaching at Norma School at that time. There were over twenty pupils. Names that are remembered are; Sjare, Demas, McGovern, Bellefontaine, Austin and Rousseau.

Mr. Norby was doing carpentry work while living

in the Norma district. The family moved back to the Burnt Lake district from here, and settled on a farm.

Mrs. Norby passed away in 1945, and Oscar Norby in 1950. Mae, Mrs. Ken Nelson of Bentley has two boys. Pearl and Manley Viste of Hanna had seven children, four boys and three girls. Esther is deceased. She married Clare Snyder of Vancouver and they had two daughters. Ruth married Fraser McMullen of Medicine Hat. They have a family of four boys. He is now deceased. Andy married Margaret Schmidt of Alsask, Sask. They had two boys and a girl. Margaret is deceased. Andy still lives on the Burnt Lake farm. Eddie and Winnie live in Nanaimo, B.C. They have a family of two daughters and a son.

More history of this family is in the History Book, "Along the Burnt Lake Trail".

Pedersen, Gunnar

written by Hilda

SW Sec 1 Twp 39 R 1 W 5th.

Our story varies a little from that of our neighbors as both Gunnar and I immigrated in our early twenties and came to Canada alone.



Back: Gunnar and Hilda Pedersen. Front: Sonja, Chris and Carol, 1978.

Gunnar was born in Bramminge, Denmark in 1933, and came to Halifax on the S. S. Stavangerfjord, in May 1954. With \$50 for the train ticket to Edmonton, meals for the six days on the train he began a new start in a strange land. He had faith in God. Arriving in Edmonton he found a job as a carpenter. He was laid off for Christmas and then found out the employer had not paid into the Unemployment Insurance Program. He sought new employment and after the New Year Gunnar found work north of Athabasca, cutting tamarack for fence posts, and hauling them to Edmonton. It was his first taste of 60 below temperature — with the wind blowing.

With spring coming he went to Calgary to meet his brother Kaj, who had also immigrated. They worked together for the summer and in the fall Gunnar left to work in Thasis on Vancouver Island. Thasis is a company town and when the workers talked of going on strike in July 1958 he came back to Calgary and started his own construction company.

Hilda was born in Killinghusen, Schleswig-Holstein West-Germany in 1938. My early years were also the war years. I remember the night the ammunition train was bombed in Wrist, only 3 km from our house. All the windows facing east were blown out by the force. Another night, totally dark, the sirens wailed, waking the whole town. We always slept fully clothed and mother had a suitcase packed and we hurried across the street to share the neighbor's bunker. On one such night the only bridge in town was bombed. Then came the sunny spring day in May 1945 when the British tanks rolled through our city taking command.

The first years of school (1944-46) were difficult. (Three of the four schools in town were used as emergency hospitals. The one remaining served both the local and the refugee population. Many teachers were in school for three to four hour shifts every day except Sundays.

In 1958 I immigrated to Sweden. It did not turn out to be that much of an adventure, so two years later I immigrated to Canada, arriving August 7th in Calgary. I was met by my cousin, Horst Engel, whom I had not met before. He was also my sponsor. He and his family own and operate the Neapolis Dairy east of Didsbury.

Gunnar and I were married in a German Church in Calgary in December 1962. Our family, Sonja Andrea, and the twins, Roy Christian and Caroline Marie were all born there.

In 1967, Centennial Year, we found the place we wanted to make our home. Our neighbors told us the house had been built around 1906. It was due for a major renovation, inside and out, which we planned to do right away. We had little use for the old barns because Gunnar planned to continue with construction work. I think I burned old wood every day for the first two years. One day, being busy with the young family, and not watching the fire closely enough, it got away on me. As my neighbor Lila Bahler told me later, she had gone to Red Deer in the morning and the old barn east of the house was standing. When she came back after lunch it was gone.

Many of the local people will remember some of the families that lived on our place before we did — The Levitts, Tom Leader, Coverdales, Wills.

Over the years we have made numerous trips

back to see our families and friends, but for us there is only one place that is home, and that is right here in this beautiful country.

Petterson, George and Anna SW-28-38-1-W5th

I was born in 1912 to Lars and Anna (Norberg) Petterson of Sweden, the second child in a family of four. We lived on father's homestead two miles south of Sylvan Lake SE-20-38-1-W5th. The homestead was sold in 1960. Mother died in 1956 and Father in 1965.



Petterson Family — 1919. George, Father, Mother, Elizabeth.

I took my schooling in Sylvan Lake walking the two miles, not on pavement or snowplowed roads, but poorly graded, mud and snow.

Cars were few, mostly Model Ts and rarely used in winter. Horses pulling buggies, sleighs, wagons or democrats were our main means of transportation.

I began school in May 1920 in the one roomed school built in 1912. Later this school moved across the road and CPR Track and became The Sylvan Lake Creamery run by Mr. Brody.

Grades 1 to 10 were taught by Mr. K. V. Wright. It was not easy as I could not speak any English. Fortunately there were others who spoke Swedish. Ruth Lindman interpreted for the teacher when necessary. I learned some English in those two months, so when fall term began I was ready for school. The new two roomed school had two teachers, one for grades one, two, and three and one for grades four to ten. In 1926 a third room was added. This school is now the town hall at Sylvan Lake. My first teacher was Miss Bertha Rawlingson, then Miss Baker, Mr. Coffie, Mrs. B. C. Learnard and Mr. Pauly. I left school in 1926 and helped at home on the farm. In 1930 I homesteaded in Peace River but left it in 1931 and came back to father's. In 1937 Dad and I purchased the SE¼ 29- (Harry Mann Place) and farmed together until he retired.



George, Leonard and Elizabeth Petterson.

I married Edith Drader of Edmonton in 1949 and we moved to our present farm purchased in 1952.

We have two children. Ernie born in 1951. He and his wife Myrna live in Innisfail district.

Myrna, born in 1954 is married to Rev. Dipert of Westlock. They have two children, Jeran and Josh.

The present farm was homesteaded by Julius Armeneau in 1906. Then owned by George Root, Frank Dalaire Sr. in 1923-24 then back to Roots until his nephew Alfred Woolcott of Stettler took it over. Woolcott built a small house, a large chicken house and drilled a well on the place. Later it was sold to H. H. Bloom, then Garnet Gold of Sask, whom I bought it from in 1949.



Merna, Edith, George and Ernie.

In 1952 power was brought to the farm and gas was put in in 1967. In 1960 we got the telephone installed.

Some of the memorable incidents of my early life are stacking grain sheaves. Stack threshing was done by Harry Nelson, Lindholm Bros and Frank Dalaire. Frank also did our first stook threshing on my dad's farm in 1922 with steam rig and 10 bundle teams.

It was exciting to watch Frank Dalaire breaking land with a sixty horsepower steamer pulling 2 breaking plows with plow shakers (men who handled the levers). There were no power lifts or controls in those days. This took place on our farm. On my way home from school I would watch this procedure as the big drive wheels backed over the brush that stood higher than the steamer and the plows burying the same.



Lars Petterson and son George in 1913.

The worst hail storm in the area came at midnight July 26, 1924. The fields looked like they had been cultivated. All windows on the north and west sides of the houses were knocked out and trees were completely stripped, even the bark was damaged. Small animals and birds were killed.

My first experience of leaving home was going to Olds School of Agriculture for a short course on a school scholarship in 1927. This was also my first train ride.

One other incident I remember, was when the Indians contracted to clear land for the farmers. They would move in from the Reserve, bringing with them a herd of horses. They travelled in covered wagons, about 20 men, women kids and dogs, squatting on the land. They cut, dug out and burned everything ready for breaking. I was afraid of them so made a wide detour around their camp.

One humourous and embarrassing incident was when I was a beginner at school. When walking home Mr. Hancock, driving a Model T Roadster,

offered me a ride. The ruts were so deep it made the car pitch from side to side. The door flew open and I fell out into a ditch full of water. The driver was very embarrassed when he delivered me home.

I have seen Sylvan Lake Town grow from a hamlet to its present size. We have been active members of the Pentecostal Church for 30 years.

In July, 1964, I had the misfortune to get my hand caught in a roto baler and had to have the arm amputated above the elbow.

We are still living on the same farm working with my son.

Plumb — Fred and Gladys

31-38-28-W4th

Fred was born at the homestead farm near Blackfalds to Edwin and Annie Plumb. He attended school at Blackfalds. His family consisted of three brothers, Tom, Jack and James and a sister, Bertha. Tom, Jack and Bertha are deceased. James resides near Blackfalds.

Gladys was born on a farm near Blackfalds then owned by her grandfather, Pete Lowe. The family consisted of parents, Herman and Tillie Lowe, a sister Leitha and two brothers, Lloyd and Percy. The mother resides at Valley Park Manor, Red Deer. Her sister, Leitha, also resides in Red Deer. Lloyd and Percy are deceased.

In 1941, Fred purchased the farm formerly owned by Harold Rodgers. On Oct. 20, 1943, we were married and our first home was a one-room house built by Fred and a neighbor, Chris Larsen. Prior to our marriage, I was employed for six months as a cook for Mrs. Hunter at the Tip Top Cafe in Sylvan Lake. Our daughter, Rosalie was born in 1945.

We raised turkeys and chickens for the first few years and encountered many problems with skunks and owls. A loaded shotgun was the only solution and once, that led to frightening consequences. We were awakened by a noise in the chicken house. There was no electricity, so Fred was consigned to carry a lantern and a loaded shotgun out to find the source of the problem. I suggested that I might carry the lantern, but was told to stay in the house for my own safety. A few minutes after Fred left the house, I heard the shotgun blast. In a few minutes, he returned to the house, bleeding from a wound to his face. I was certain he had accidentally shot himself, but actually the shotgun had backfired, injuring him under the eye.

Owls were a problem raising turkeys. One year, after the turkeys were nearly grown, and roosting outside, an owl came one night and severely frightened them. The turkeys flew in all directions, their wings sounding like airplanes. The following morn-

ing we noticed several turkeys returning from a great distance down the road.

During the 1940's there were several occasions that Indians came with horses and wagons and stopped here for milk and food for their small children. After getting milk and other necessities from us they would stop a short distance up the road and have their supper.

Our neighbors lived close by and often visited. To the south were Mr. and Mrs. Ganske and family and Mrs. Lily Abrassart, Bill and Lucille Turner. To the west were, Mr. and Mrs. Brodersen who later sold to Vera and Joe Gaukler. On the northeast portion of the Gaukler property, and very close to us, lived a dear friend, Chris Larsen, a bachelor. He was a butcher by trade, and a frequent guest at supper. He was an avid card player and spent many evenings playing whist with us. He later moved his house into the West Park area of Red Deer and was employed by a firm manufacturing diamond drill bits. After some years, he sold his house and moved to Parksville, B.C. where he invested in a large boat.



The Fred (Bob) Plumb Family — 1981. L. to R. back: Jim Potter, Fred Plumb, Henry Sebalka, Bob Plumb. Front: Bonnie Potter, Rosilie Sebalka, Gladys Plumb, Child, Vance Potter.

Although we were kept busy, life had its amusing moments. Houses were not as modern as today and it would not be unusual to find a mouse in any household.

One day a neighbor lady had visitors when a mouse scampered across the floor. One fellow was leaning back in his wooden chair. When someone hollered "A mouse," he leaned forward and the leg of the chair landed squarely on the mouse killing it instantly.

On the farm, spring and summer are beautiful seasons. We have a large creek flowing through our pasture near the barn. One spring the run-off was excessive and the cows had to swim across it to reach the barn. In summer, wild strawberries could be found in the pasture. Gooseberries grew also, but

both are rare today. Chokecherries and saskatoons still grow, although not in such abundance. Each autumn usually found the family on a blueberry expedition.

In 1952, Bonnie and Freddie, twins, were born. In 1964 we built a new home. Modern facilities are a welcome contrast, but we still retain some of our old ways. We are still engaged in mixed farming and milk cows by hand. Our bread and butter is still made at home.

Rosalie is a secretary and is married to Henry Sybulka. He is a superintendent at Travel Aire. They live in Fairview in Red Deer.

Bonnie attended Red Deer College for two years and is married to Jim Potter, a butcher at Canada Packers in Red Deer. They live at Blackfalds. They have a son, Vance.

Fred is a livestock dealer. He lives at home.

Louis Prevo **written by Bernadine Sells,** **Longview, Washington**

Louis moved to Canada and the Red Deer area from Nebraska in 1918 to a small farm near his father Peter Prevo. Peter and his wife had three boys, Louis, Joseph and William (Bill), two daughters Rosa and Phoebe. Louis was born in Oakdale Nebraska in 1872. He married and had two sons, Charles and Pete.

Maria Davis was born in Tilden Nebraska in 1882. She married John E. Batterson in 1905. They had three boys and one girl. Herbert, Lawrence and Sterling, he passed away at age two, and myself Bernadine. My dad, John Batterson, was killed by a train in 1911. Louis's wife was burned to death in a fire in 1910.

Louis and Maria were married in 1918. Travelling by train and met by Uncle Bill, by wagon we went to the farm. The house was just two rooms. We added a living room and one bedroom, an upstairs with two bedrooms. There was a barn, a chicken house, and well house. This is now the Gaukler farm.

We attended school at Norma until 1924. Mrs. Schoonover was our teacher and Sunday School teacher. We finished our schooling in Spokane, after six years on the farm of being hauled out or dried out. On returning to Spokane Louis went back to his trade as a brick mason. From there he went to Longview a mill town starting up. They had two of the largest mills in the world, a paper mill and an aluminum plant. The folks moved on to Portland, Oregon where they lived for years.

Just before we came to Alberta the CPR railroad was put across Grandpa Prevo's place. We walked on



Louis and Marie Prevo.

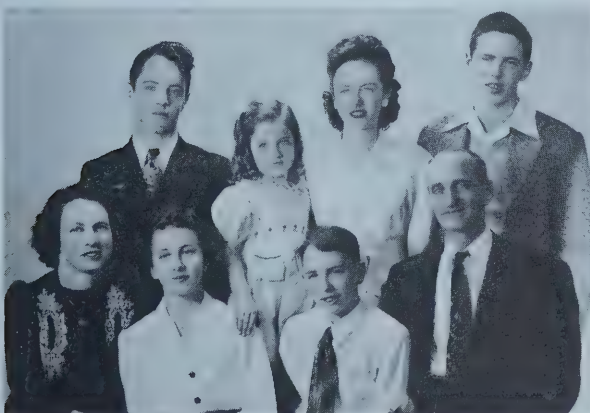
the tracks to school many times. There were no phones or electricity when we were on the farm. (Red Deer had both). The roads were all dirt.

Our neighbors were Terence and Nellie McGovern, the Prentice Family, the Walters and Depauws.

William Prevo was one of the first to own a car, a Gray Dort. It was funny when he came home, he drove it into the wood shed — called Whoa! — but the car kept going — right out the other side. Luckily not a lot of damage was done to the car.

The threshers went from farm to farm helping each other in the fall.

We played basketball the last year I was at Norma. The boys walked on stilts. We all rode horses and herded cattle. We loved to pick the wild berries for



Back row: George, Ivy, Marilyn, Beatrice and Donald. Front: Bernadine, Darlene, Lawrence, Captain William Brett.



Bernadine Sells, my mother Marie Prevo, my daughter Beatrice Hoven, my granddaughter Bernadine Jones and my great-granddaughter Katrina.

pies, jams and jellies. We sold farm goods to the vacationers at Sylvan Lake.

I attended Nursing School and worked for 19 years at St. John's Hospital also at a Nursing Home for 18 months. I've been retired for eleven years.

I married Captain William Brett in 1925. He was a Canadian Soldier in the First World War, and passed away in 1958. We had three boys and three girls. The boys served their country in the Navy and the Marines in Germany and Vietnam. They are all married.

In 1959 I remarried, Willie Sells, a retired oil man, I have 29 grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren. We enjoy travelling and the family.

Prevo, Bill and Anna by Lilly Prevo Abrassart

I was born in Banff in 1904. My parents Bill and Anna Prevo were going by train to Nebraska via Oregon. I had seven brothers and sisters from my mom's and dad's previous marriages. Pheobe (Mrs. Ray Bettendorf), Goldie (Mrs. Art Loiselle) and Jessie (Mrs. Bob Loiselle); were the daughters of my father and Frances Prevo. Frances died childbearing. Sandy, Fred, Archie and Mary, known as Bea (Mrs. Bill Austin) were the family of my mom and Bill Smith. Bill Smith was killed cutting wood for the C.P.R. round house in Red Deer in 1904. The Smith and Prevo families homesteaded in the Poplar Ridge district in 1900.

My grandma and grandpa, Peter and Maryann Prevo, bought land — the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ -1-39-1-W5 from the C.P.R. in 1911 and in 1913 our families all moved there from Oakdale, Nebraska. My uncles, Joe and Louis Prevo came later to the district.

In 1916 our family and some of the Austin family travelled by wagon to Southern Alberta for three months to harvest as all the Norma district was hailed out.

My folks bought the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ -36-38-1-W5 from my



Mr. and Mrs. William Prevo about 1910.

grandpa in 1922. My mother was midwife to many babies born in the district. She would stay at their home or nurse them in her own home for a two week period. I do not have a count of how many babies she helped bring into the world, but it would be at least fifty.

There were a lot of native Indians around the district, and my mother gave them meals and food many times. They would return ponies and stock that had strayed from our farm.

My grandma died at 83 in 1924, my grandpa at 83 in 1926. The farm was sold to E. Wills Sr.



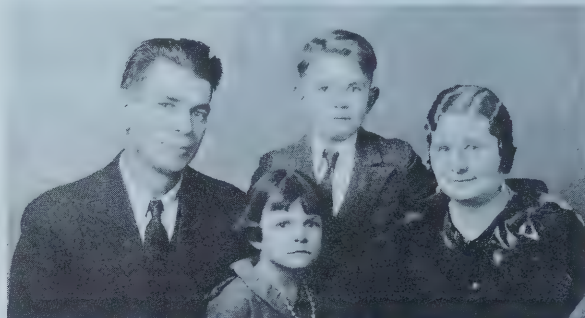
Peter Prevo Home.



L. to R.: Mary Anna Prevo, Peter Prevo, W. O. Dickey, W. Prevo, Anna Prevo, Mrs. Reagon Sylvan Lake, Goldie Prevo, Mary (Bea) Smith, and Bill Austin.

My dad died in 1938 at the age of 75. My mother farmed with the help of family until Flatters took over the farm in 1943. She then moved to Red Deer where she worked for many years at a laundry and later the Buffalo Hotel kitchen. She died in 1955 at the age of 81. She was well known as Ma or Gram Prevo.

I attended both Poplar Ridge and Norma Schools. In 1921, I married Ernest Fadden and our son Ernest Patrick was born. I was divorced and married Emile Abrassart, (born 1901) in Missouri, in 1926. Emile was a miner. Our son Emil was born there. Emil died of pneumonia in 1949. He was unwell most of his young years as he suffered a serious bout of polio. In



L. back: Emile, son Emile and Lily. Front: Irene Abrassart.



Lucille Abrassart.

1927 we moved back to Alberta and in 1928 bought our farm 30-28-38-W4 where Irene was born that year. We rented land in Poplar Ridge and also the quarter next to ours that runs into Burnt Lake (SE¼-25-38-1-W4) which we purchased from E. Kingsep in 1947. Times were not easy as everyone knows during the twenties and thirties.

We always milked cows and had other cattle and stock. There was a well, but only drinking water, so we had to haul water from E. Wills (Gonsky-Bahler) farm to water them. When it was possible we drove them to the water in the lake to drink. Our well was finally drilled in 1936. We were thankful to finally not have to haul it anymore. We lived in a log house until we built and moved into our home in 1938. Lucille came along in 1935 and that same year we got a puppy named Rex. At six weeks of age he ran under the hay mower and had one foot cut off. Emile went into the house to get the gun but the pup had disappeared. He came back two weeks later with his leg healed and lived to 17, hobbling on three legs.

Emile contacted typhoid in 1941 and it was then discovered that he also had tuberculosis. He spent most of the rest of his life in the TB San in Calgary until his death there in 1951.

I moved to Kelsy Bay, Vancouver Island in 1956 and sold the farm in 1960 to Mrs. Davis.

I live in Campbell River now with Irene's daughter Ann and family. I enjoy good health and my family.

The reunion held this summer of 1980 was a wonderful time. I want to thank and congratulate all the people who did such a fine job of organizing and working so hard to make it a success. It was indeed a joyous reunion with visits with many I had not seen for years.



Irene Abrassard, son-in-law Dwayne, daughter Ann, grandchildren: Selina and Michael, Sharra and Shonna Attfields.

Irene

Irene was born and raised on the home farm and attended Norma School from 1935 to 1942. She quit school when her dad became ill and took over farming, working very hard. She moved to Red Deer in 1952 when the farm was rented. In 1956 she moved to Vancouver where she was employed as a homecare nurse. In 1977 she moved to Campbell River to be close to her daughter Ann and husband Dwayne Attfield.

She is still doing home-care work and spends weekends with her family. She enjoys her four grandchildren — Shonna and Sarra (twins 1974) Selina (1976) and Michael (1979). She loves bingo and the odd trip to Reno for holidays.

Lucille Turner

Lucille was born and raised on the home farm. Lucille attended Norma school grade 1-9 and Red Deer Composite High — graduating in 1952 at 16. She worked at North West Motors until her marriage to William (Bill) Turner (born in 1924 in Manitoba) in 1954. Bill moved to the district in 1951 to work for Buster Austin and in 1952 rented the farm until it sold in 1960. Bill also worked for Sims Auction during those years. They have five children, Tom, Terry and Cindy born in Red Deer and Sally and Bette in Coquitlam.



Bette, Sally, Lucille, Bill, Terri, Tom and Cindy Turner.

Tom born in 1954 lives and works in Burnaby and is a warehouse foreman. Terry born in 1956 lives and works downtown Vancouver and is employed at a bank where she is a legal clerk for collections. Cindy born in 1957 is an RN and works at Burnaby General Emergency. She also lives there. Sally (1960) lives at home and works downtown Vancouver as a credit clerk. Bette (1963) will complete grade 12 in 1981, at

the same school where all five children completed their high school education.

Bill and Lucille and children have all been involved in sports and community and school activities. This includes coaching and refereeing soccer, baseball and football. Their home has many medals and trophies from sports and music participation.

Rabidou, Andrew and Valeria Pat Bickford

Andrew Rabidou was born in Davenport Iowa, Nov. 29, 1861. He was the 5th son of Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Rabidou who had earlier emigrated to the United States from Quebec. On May 19, 1896 he married Miss Valeria Pulis, and they farmed in Iowa until 1902, when they moved south to the Oklahoma Panhandle. They resided there until 1909. On hearing about the future on the Alberta Prairies of ranching and farming he decided to head for Canada. Mr. Rabidou was known to have said. "I hear that they pay income tax in Canada. If they make enough



Andrew and Valeria Rabidou.

money there to have to pay income tax, that's the place I am going." Loading what household effects that they had into a boxcar, they and another neighbor, C. Staples, came by train to Red Deer on Nov. 4, 1909. They lived in the city that winter.

Mr. Rabidou worked for Piper's Brickyard, but still wanting to farm, was able to rent a farm, SW-1-39-1-W5 just east of Sylvan Lake from Mr. P. Prevo. This farm site became the halfway house for travellers. Mrs. Rabidou would feed them and provide them with a bed while Mr. Rabidou and the older son Walter, would take care of the horses.

Many tales were told about fishing experiences. A little creek that joined Burnt Lake to Sylvan Lake provided ample fish for many meals. These could be caught in a few minutes, leaving the rest of the time for the hard work that goes with farming.

Mr. Rabidou is well remembered for his mules. He brought several of these animals with him from Oklahoma because he truly believed they were superior to the horse. However, because of their stubborn nature they created more problems than the good they did so they were eventually sold.

In 1913 Mr. Rabidou moved to the Willowdale District where he purchased a farm 13-37-27-W4th about ten miles SE of Red Deer. He lived there until his death on July 17, 1923. Mrs. Rabidou died Nov. 17, 1945. They are both buried in the Red Deer Cemetery. The family consisted of two sons and three daughters. **Marie** born at Lamoni, Iowa, May 20, 1897. She worked many years for the Federal Government in the Post Office in Calgary. She died Dec. 24, 1957.

Walter Andrew born at Lamoni, Iowa, Aug. 30, 1901. Farmed in the Springvale District until his death Dec. 5, 1971.

Pearl Lajune born at Gray, Oklahoma June 9, 1905. She was employed by the Government in the Forestry Department. She is retired and resides in Calgary.

Howard Joseph born at Gray, Oklahoma, Jan. 3, 1907. He was employed as a mechanic in Calgary for many years. He became a salesman for Brooks Motors where he was employed when he died on May 10, 1970.

Barbara Alice born at Red Deer, Alberta on April 17, 1913. She worked as a secretary in Calgary before marrying Campbell Roberston in Jan. 1932. She passed away in Calgary on Dec. 5, 1976.

Murel and Evelyn Ramsey

Murel and Evelyn (McCutcheon) Ramsey and two year old son, Allan, moved to the Norma District from Lacombe in the early spring of 1932. They moved their belongings with horses and sled down through Gull Lake to a rented farm owned by John



Evelyn and Murel Ramsey with grandson John.

Kask. This farm bordered the town of Sylvan Lake. The log house was very homey, but one drawback was spring thaw as the logs were chinked with a mixture of manure and clay. This mixture gave a "slight odor" when it thawed out.

In July of the same year, Evelyn gave birth to her second son John (Jack) who was born in Bentley, about eleven miles north of the Kask farm.

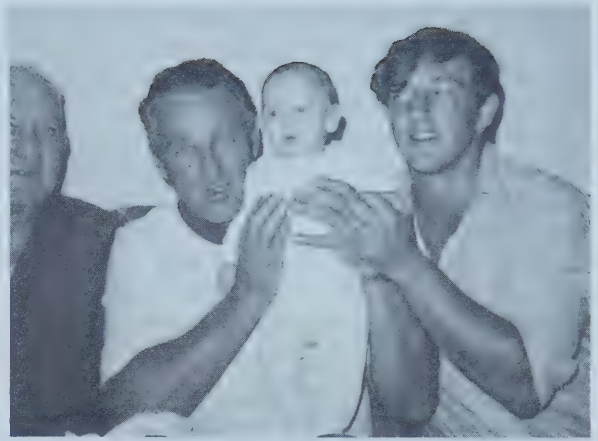
Murel and Evelyn farmed the Kask farm until the spring of 1935, when they bought a quarter section from the Rouseau family. This quarter was on Highway 11, two miles east of the Kask Farm and $\frac{3}{4}$ miles east of Norma School. Both boys attended Norma school from Grades 1 to 9.

Murel farmed with horses until 1937 when he purchased his first tractor, a 1530 McCormick Deering. He used this tractor for breaking more land on the farm.

Murel was a mixed farmer. He milked cows and put the milk in eight gallon cans. He hauled the cans to the road where they were picked up by the Alpha Dairy truck from Red Deer.

In 1959 the lower forty acres was purchased by Floyd Burk and Hardy Sonnenberg.

In 1971, Murel and Evelyn retired, selling their remaining portion of the farm to James and Agnes



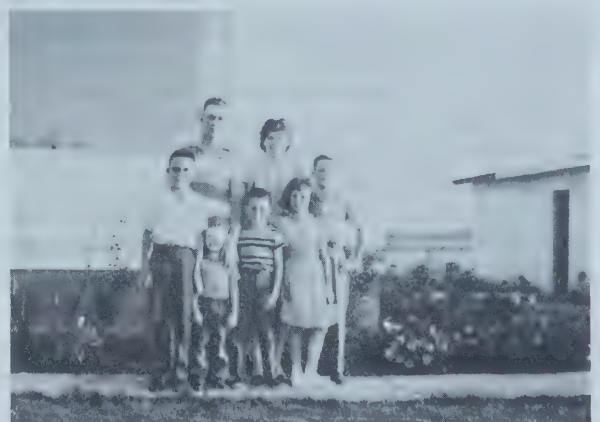
Four Generations of Ramsey — Murel, Allan, Darren and Dwayne.

Colbert. They bought a house in Sylvan Lake where they resided in retirement until 1978. When they both became ill they moved to West Park Nursing Home, and from there to the Richard Parsons Auxiliary Hospital where Evelyn is now. Merle passed away January 5, 1981.

They have seven grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.

Allan left school in grade 12 to make his fortune in the oil patch. He continued with this career, working in various oil fields in Alberta, Sask. and B.C. In 1959, he and his wife, Fran, and their four sons moved to the acreage on the home farm on 11 Highway. Our boys were Dwayne, 9 years old, Dennis, 8, Jim 4, and John a wee baby at this time.

Allan and his father Murel built the house on the acreage without the aid of electric power. The house was completed a month before power was connected. In the fall of 1971, the acreage was sold to Max Hoogstra from Ontario, and we moved to Sylvan Lake.



Allan, Fran, Dennis, Dwayne, John, Jim and Belva.

Dwayne, Dennis and Jim attended River Glen School until Dwayne was in grade six. At that time they were transferred to the Sylvan Lake School. The year John started school, Fran started driving the school bus and drove for 7 years. This fitted in well with the raising of the family and also the hog operation on the acreage. Everyone in the family worked hard on the hog farm.

At the age of 18, Dwayne graduated from Sylvan Lake school and joined the Armed Forces, Naval Division. He started out in Nova Scotia and then when done basic, on to Victoria, B.C. He married Theresa Latham of Port Alberni, B.C. and they resided in Victoria where he was stationed. They have two children. Darren now 7 years old and Pamela 5. Dwayne passed away at the age of 25 years at Victoria in June, 1975, in a tragic car accident the evening his daughter Pamela was born. He was buried at the Naval Cemetery in Victoria. His family still resides in Victoria.

Dennis, at 17, joined the Navy the same year as Dwayne. He was stationed in Victoria too, on a different ship. Dennis left the Navy after a five year stint and went to work in the lumber industry around Prince George, B.C. Dennis married Phyllis Lytle of Vancouver in March, 1974. In the spring of 1975 they moved to Bentley and in 1976 they moved to Camrose. Dennis is employed as a heavy duty mechanic for Border Paving. Dennis and Phyllis have three children. Adam, 5; Rachelle, 4; and Steven 10 months.

Jim graduated from Sylvan Lake High School and at 17 went to Port Alberni to work in the Pulp and Paper Mills. Due to constant labour strikes he came back to Sylvan Lake. In 1975, he married Sherry Bulmer of Sylvan Lake.

Jim and Sherry have one daughter, Amber who is two. As a growing lad in junior and senior high school, Jim was employed at the Sylvan Lake Marina. He had some very exciting and busy summers on the lake. They now live in Sylvan Lake and Jim is employed in the oil fields.

John finished high school at Sylvan Lake where he still resides. As a boy of 11 he started his first town job, a paper boy for the Calgary Herald, delivering to summer residences. He held this job for three years. He made many friends and liked the work. He worked after school at Korny's Service and Quick's Balmoral Service. He started a motor mechanics apprentice course when he completed grade 12. He is now employed in the oil fields. He is single and enjoying the bachelor life.

Belva, Allan's daughter from a previous marriage, was raised by the Grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. LeBlanc from the age of four. They lived for many

years at Fort Nelson B.C. and then moved to Sylvan Lake for a short time before retiring to Salmon Arm, B.C. where Belva completed her schooling. She married Daryl Oliver, an RCMP officer stationed at Salmon Arm. They now live in North Battleford, Sask. and have two children. Kendra is four and Kevin is two. As a young girl Belva spent many summer holidays in Sylvan Lake. She was a delightful girl, a joy to have around, always full of fun and love.

After the move from the farm, to Sylvan Lake, in 1971, Allan returned to oil field work and Fran started a Sears Catalogue Order Office. Two years later, with combined efforts of Allan and Fran they added a fabric and sewing centre to the Sears store. It was called Fran Al Fabrics and was a very exciting and prosperous business located in the Cobb Block. In 1978 the complete business was sold to Pat and Fred Lyons Jr. of Sylvan Lake.

In the past few years Allan has built four houses, with John as his assistant, and they have sold them. Allan is presently involved in the oil fields which he enjoys.

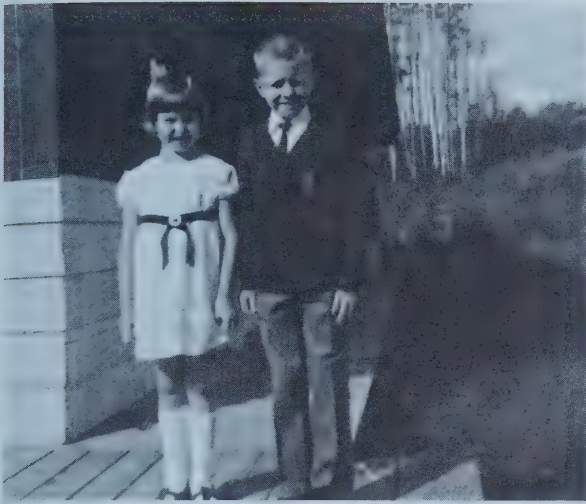
Fran is a Director for Mary Kay Cosmetics and has been involved in this for the last two years.

Jack Ramsey lived at the farm with his folks until he was married in 1961 to Beverly Howard of Sylvan Lake. Jack was employed by Dick German in the seismic work for many years. He then took his apprentice mechanic course with Bob German at Bob's garage in Sylvan Lake. In 1964 Jack and Bev moved to Burns Lake, B.C. where they lived for nine years. Then they moved to Kitwanga, B.C. where Jack is employed as head mechanic for a lumber mill. They have two children, Arthur now 18 and Viola-Jean now 17. Beverly passed away in May of 1979 after a lengthy illness and is buried at Kitwanga. She was a very talented seamstress and a lovely person.

Arthur is now employed in the oil fields, working



Bev and Jack Ramsey.



Jack Ramsey Family. Jean and Art.

with his Uncle Allan. He worked in the lumber camps and lumber mill near Kitwanga area for a year previous to moving to Sylvan Lake in the summer of 1980. He makes his home in Sylvan Lake. Arthur took his schooling in Burns Lake and at Hazelton where the kids were bussed from Kitwanga.

Viola-Jean also took her schooling at both places with Art. Since the passing of her mother, she has been finishing her schooling at Burns Lake, this year graduating from Grade 12. She spends the majority of her weekends and holidays with her father at Kitwanga. During the last two summers she has worked in the office of the mill at Kitwanga.

Reiser, George by Anne

Legal description of land SE½-3-39-15.

George and Anne Reiser along with their two sons, Larry and Ken, moved into the district on September 1, 1976. On Oct. 1, 1977 the family moved into their new home just a few yards north of the old house.

Anne teaches grade six in the West Park Elementary School in Red Deer. George is a gas plant operator in the area. Larry is employed in the oil field while Ken is entering high school in Sylvan Lake.

The family is very pleased to have their home in the Norma District. Anne's mother, Genevra Riley (nee Knieper) went to the old Norma School many years ago.

Rousseau, Napoleon

Mr. and Mrs. Napoleon Rousseau and their two sons arrived in Sylvan Lake in the spring of 1911. The eldest son was a doctor and practised in and around Sylvan. He later moved to Provost where he started

his own hospital, but caught the influenza which was raging the country, and died.

Rousseaus continued to live in Sylvan. They were building a two story building when one night a strong wind came along and blew the top story along side the bottom part so they built two houses instead of one. A few years later they bought a farm three miles east of Sylvan Lake, which was called the Norma District.

Rousseaus moved one house from Sylvan Lake out to the farm. Mr. Rousseau passed away in 1920. The youngest boy was married in 1927. They had 4 children two of whom attended the Norma School. They didn't know any English but soon learned when they went to school. There were card parties and dances at the school and Sundays always friends for a meal. In fact, just about every day some one was dropping in and accepted pot luck meals. We had many good friends in the Bellefontains, Fauchers, Schenks, Daths, Hagermans and Prevos.

A funny incident happened on the farm. Elphege had an Irish boy just over from Ireland. He sent him to fix fences. It was a very hot day and he told us he had been drinking in the ponds, which were really our sloughs. Another time he sent him to split wood and when he went to see how he was doing, he found he was standing in a wash tub, as he was scared he would cut his feet. The boy decided then that he wasn't cut out to be a farm hand.

In 1935, Elphege and family left the farm to find other employment. It wasn't easy to find work. The depression years were bad for a lot of people. Elphege worked as a stationary engineer until his retirement in 1967, living in Lethbridge until his death in 1971.

The Rozier Family

Julien George and Marie Antoinette Rozier were born in the central part of France. Julien having received his degree in Horticulture, was involved in the family nursery and wine business.

Being a young, adventuresome couple they decided to venture to Canada. They, with their 3 year old daughter, Andrea, arrived in Quebec about 1908. After spending some time in Quebec the West beckoned and they moved to Manitoba, still further west, they moved to Lethbridge. Here they settled down for many years.

Julien worked as steam engineer in the coal mines for a few years before buying a farm. Farming in the early pioneer days was filled with hardship, shared by all, taking the good with the bad. Times were not easy. Entertainment was simple — cards, basket socials, barn dances, fishing and hunting.



Mr. and Mrs. Rozier and George taken in 1950.

Entertainment in the early days meant family entertainment.

In Lethbridge, three children were born, two daughters, Rene and Alyce and a son George. Rene (Peterson), Alyce (Rea) and Andrea Houlton reside in Lethbridge today. There are now two grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Rozier and son, George, moved to Rocky Mountain House in 1935. George moved the cattle via rail which he remembers was quite a trial. His job was to take care of the cattle, supplying food and water.

This proved quite a change from farming on the prairie. They couldn't accept the idea of being "hemmed or closed in" by the huge spruce trees. Indeed, this was very different from gazing for miles across the prairie.

Finally they found a quarter of land for sale near the town of Sylvan Lake. The land was purchased from Eugene Walters in 1937. They were involved in mixed farming until they sold the farm in 1948. Once again they moved back to Lethbridge, but only for a year, then they returned to the town of Sylvan Lake.

Julien and Marie Rozier spent their retirement of fifteen to twenty years in Sylvan Lake doing what they enjoyed most — growing flowers and gardening. Mrs. Rozier died at age 83 in 1962, Mr. Rozier at age 88 in Dec. 1969.

George James Rozier by Dora

George moved to Sylvan Lake with his parents in 1949. He was employed by Frank Bloom in the



George and Dora Rozier, 1952 at Sylvan Lake.

hardware store and later worked in the Nyman Jewellery Store. He'll best be known as an employee of Cobb's General Store for about 18 years. During this time he also returned to straight grain farming on NE¼ 28-38-1-W5.

Having retired from Cobb's store in 1969 he was semi-retired having only his farming and gardening.

George married Dora Fitzsimmons of Red Deer in 1951. We lived in town until 1963 when we built a home on the farm and moved out there. Dora taught school in Sylvan Lake until her retirement in 1974.

In 1978 we retired to Kelowna, B.C. where we built a home and hope to enjoy the rest of our time in a milder climate. Since retirement we enjoy travelling and gardening.

Schenk — Charlie and Bernard, SE ¼ 34-3-1-W5

Bernard Schenk came to Canada from Switzerland in 1927 leaving by boat from Amherst Belgium and landing at Montreal. Charlie came in 1928 via the same route.

They bought their farm of 240 acres in 1932 from Alphonse Lemoine. This land in the Norma District had 65 acres broken.

Their first home on the farm was part of the old French Colony that settled there in the early 1900's. Home and barns were all under one roof as many farm buildings were in Europe. One might wonder about sanitation problems, but it was no problem as all was kept very clean. The old Colony buildings were replaced by new barns, lovely home and well kept yards — a far cry from the old.

The Schenk boys raised cattle and milked cows. Their land was ideally suited to mixed farming. For many years they sold cream to the Sylvan Lake



Charlie and Bernard Schenks. Cream Quality Trophy won in 1957 and 1959.

Creamery receiving the best quality cream award in 1957 and 1959.

Charlie and Bernard were great yodellers and provided good entertainment for the Swiss picnics and other events.

Charlie passed away Sept. 1, 1960 — he is missed by many who knew him and remember his sense of humour.

Bernard and the two Dath girls still live on the home farm.

Mr. and Mrs. Schoonover

Mr. and Mrs. Schoonover came from the United States to Sylvan Lake with three small children and lived on the John Kask quarter for a number of years.

Mr. Schoonover farmed the quarter and went into dairy cattle. There were a lot of short trees on that place and he invented a horse drawn brush cutter. It worked and cut the brush off at the ground. The neighbors all shook their heads because the trees were falling on the horses and him too.



Schoonover Family.

They always had another baby during the summer holidays until their family numbered eleven children. Mrs. Schoonover taught school at Norma in 1916 until 1923. She was a wonderful teacher. She could play violin, piano and was an artist with oil paints. She taught us all these extra things as well as games outside. We had fifteen minutes to eat our lunch then she led us to whatever we could do. In the winter we always had a Christmas Concert and we did more painting and singing as well as handicraft work. She kept us so interested in our work we looked forward to going to school the next day. She had the highest attendance of any teacher who taught in our school.

There wasn't much money in those days. We painted on large boards and plaster board instead of on canvas that we couldn't afford to buy. She sold her pictures for ten dollars and got thirty dollars for one that was used for a calender. That was a lot of money then. They had a house fire about 1920 and lost everything. The community built them a new house and everyone helped to get the children clothed. They went on farming and teaching and soon overcame the shock.

Her people helped them to go back to the States and they did the same thing there — teaching and a dairy farm. She got over a hundred dollars for her pictures there. I saw them after they sold out and retired. They were still active in community work, but they both said their heart was in Alberta.

Scott, William and Molly

PT SW¼ 2-39-1-5.

My husband, Bill, was born in the Clearview district just east of Red Deer. All his working life was spent in the employ of the C.P.R., except during the depression, when the company laid off many of the younger men, and he worked on various farms,



Mollie and Bill Scott taken outside the front of the Norma School after its remodelling.

sometimes in the Peace River district and other times closer to Red Deer.

Then in 1939 came the Second World War — Bill volunteered to join the Army and went overseas with the first contingent to England (where I was born). At that time I had to go back to my Fleet Street job and work for a previous employer.

After enduring the blitz with its day and night air-raids (my daughter Rosemary and I were living alone in Kent) I was able to enroll her in a girl's boarding school in the country at Stony Stratford and away from the horrors of war.

One day my boss said, "I want you to meet a nephew of mine — he's from Toronto — and a buddy of his who is from Red Deer, Alberta", so that's how I met Bill. We weren't able to meet very often, he was in the Army and I worked in London, commuting daily to and from my home in Kent. Then he went overseas on the Sicily and Italy campaign, so it was about two years before we met again. We decided then to get married. This was a very simple war-time kind of ceremony at Bromley, Kent, with all my family, close friends and, of course, the boss and his wife present. This was on May 23, 1945. I had previously taken Bill to Rosemary's school for them to get acquainted. Later on he legally adopted her, which she wanted, so that she'd be known as a Scott. Bill had to return to his unit after one short week's honeymoon at a little country Inn near Worthing on the coast.

I sold my house, etc., and, with Rosemary, went to stay with my parents until such time as we received our sailing orders, which incidentally came a whole year later. In fact, the day we landed in Canada was May 23, 1946, our first wedding anniversary. I should mention here, that my mother and father sold their house in North London and came to Red Deer, where they bought a house on 46th Ave. and lived there until my dad's passing. Mother came out to finish her days living in the little cottage on the schoolgrounds. Both mother and dad loved Canada and never regretted coming here.

We thoroughly enjoyed the trip from England — marvellous food after six years of hard rationing and everyone treated us so kindly that I, for one, fell in love with Canada and its people. After meeting Bill's family we stayed with his mother until we found a house in Red Deer — this we did in August of 1946 and lived in it for 16½ years.

In 1951 we adopted a 3 week old baby boy and named him Raymond John. Rosemary was nearly 20 when we got Ray and even with that age difference, they have been and still are very close. When Ray reached the age of 8 we decided we'd like to get a place a little outside of Red Deer but close enough to

Bill's work, so we then put in our bid for the Norma School which was up for sale and which, I believe, had stood unused for about 2 years. Imagine our excitement when we were informed that our bid had been accepted. We quickly sold our Red Deer house and moved. There had been fully 2 years of vandalism and its consequent job of repairing and cleaning up before we could begin to live there was enormous. I think if beer bottles had been 60 cents a dozen when returned empty, we could have made quite a little fortune!

First, we cleaned up the little teacherage — which from then on we called the Cottage, putting in new windows and frames, laying new floor covering, painting etc. We stored most of our furniture in the school basement, after putting dozens of mouse traps around — oh, how I hate mice!!! We lived comfortably in the cottage during the daytime and slept in one huge room in the school at night, Ray in one corner, us in the other.

We hauled both outside toilets up closer to the house, cleaned them up, using one as a toilet, and the other as a sort of wash house. There was just enough room to put in a small coal and wood stove for heating water, my washing machine and a rinse tub, which by the way, was also used as a bathtub for a while.

Then we started the transformation scene. I cannot describe everything, but we worked hard all the time, first building an underground pump house, leading from the basement. There was already a very good deep well and outside pump on the east side of the building. Then we dismantled the huge coal furnace and put in a propane furnace, hot water tank, cook stove, etc. We then started to lower the 11'6" ceiling to 8'1" one joist at a time — what a job, took out all the old windows and put in new. Oh yes, I nearly forgot, our first big job was to tear off all the old lathe and plaster on the walls and remove the V-joint woodwork. We used all the plaster and stuff to widen the driveway from the road. Bill then rewired everywhere, with the help of Rosemary's husband Jim. When it was inspected he was complimented on his work. We planned all our rooms ourselves, no blue prints, just put walls where we wanted them, taking out part of one wall so that when we put in a staircase to the upper floor, it would be open to the view from both dining area and living room. After lowering the ceiling we built two bedrooms with 2 big walk-in closets upstairs, the master bedroom being 12' x 8". Later we took off 8' from the north end and put in a second bathroom. The main floor contained a large living room with a bedroom leading off, a big kitchen with dining area, also a bathroom.

I recall that when we were building the two dormers upstairs there was a terrible electrical storm with torrential rain, so, even though we had a huge tarpaulin over the openings, we ended up with over an inch of rain on the main floor. We mopped up all that night with yacht mops and brooms so as to save our hard-wood floors, which we had previously taken up, cleaned and relaid. We were very lucky, because no damage was done. Of course, the flooring was three-quarter inch maple and well seasoned so it didn't warp at all.

There was a lot of landscaping, fencing, grass seeding, and planting of trees — everything making the place look better all the time. We thoroughly enjoyed doing all this and still found time to enjoy the country and the many birds. At that time we had 65 bird houses, some for the little blue and white tree swallows, the larger colony houses for the purple martins. We also fed hundreds of pounds of sunflower seeds to the lovely colourful evening grosbeaks when they were around. We had acquired three saddle horses Queenie, Bonnie and Lady. Later on Bonnie had a little colt, named Chico, also a filly, named Lady. We sold these when all the dirt roads were gradually being gravelled and not so good for riding unshod horses.

Ray eventually finished school and started work at A.S.H. (now Michener Centre) where he lived in male residence. Rosemary, of course, had married many years earlier and lived in Calgary (where she still resides).

After 17½ years we decided to sell the place. This we did to Kathy and Ron Streich, a lovely couple with whom we are still good friends. Our main reason for selling was that it was too big a place for two people, lots of gardening and upkeep, and we wanted to do some travelling after Bill retired from the C.P.R. in 1973.

Since then, our lovely home has been sold again to its present owners Kay and Ernie Nagy. We were invited to meet these nice people and a little while ago went back to the old school and walked all around the garden looking at how big all the trees and shrubs had grown. Apart from the natural poplars at the rear of the grounds, Bill and I planted every shrub and tree — lilacs, flowering shrubs, fruit bushes, apple trees, etc.

I must add that we made many good friends and, just before our big sale which was held on the back lawn, our neighbors got together and gave us a lovely "going-away" party. This was held in Helen and Henry Kreb's lovely new home, right opposite our-house. We still visit many of our old neighbors but now live in the Royal Canadian Legion Apartments at the north end of Red Deer. Ray, Donna (his wife) and

their two little children now live in their new house in Lacombe. Rosemary's 3 girls are all grown up and living on their own. Rosemary and Jim also adopted a three week old baby boy, Douglas. He is now 16 years old.

I'm afraid my "few lines" have turned out to be many more and I could still write so much more of some of the things that happened while all this was going on. In our early building stage, lightning struck the transformer outside, and came through to our propane cookstove, arced a hole in the flexible gas pipe, causing a flame 6' tall, fed by the propane. Bill rushed outside in the pouring rain to shut off the propane at the big tank. We couldn't do this at the stove shut-off as it was getting red hot. Fortunately only the stove, radio and toaster suffered, and no fire started.

Somehow we still love the place, even though it's not ours, and really enjoy going back once in a while and, not wanting to brag, we feel rather proud of how the place now looks.

Selstrom, Hugo and Mary

I, Hugo, was born in 1905, at Burnt Lake, and took all my schooling at Burnt Lake School. I came from a family of eight, 4 boys and 4 girls. I worked with my father until I was 25 and then went cleaning grain, breaking land etc., around the district. I joined the Army for the 2nd World War in 1942. I served with Royal Canadian Electrical Mechanical Engineers in Kingston, Ontario until the end



Back: Allen and Alice. Front: Hugo and Mary.

of the war in 1945. After the war I returned to Benalto and started in the grain cleaning business again.

Mary Lechelt and I were married in 1948. She was working in the Benalto Hotel at that time. Mary was born in Ellerslie, in 1907, she is from a family of nine — 4 girls and 5 boys. Mary took all her schooling at Otaskiwin, a school close to Ellerslie. Mary has a son, Allan Lechelt who is now farming at Vegreville. Alice a daughter, is living in Red Deer.

In the spring of 1949 we bought the former Eustace Kingsep farm, NE Sec 2-T39-W-5. I put the crop in in June but the house was in such bad shape, and occupied by skunks so we ate in the garage until we could get the house cleaned up and remodelled. Some of our neighbors were: Furnalds, Coverdales, Ramseys, Wards, and Bahlers.

In order to begin farming I attended auction sales to buy machinery. Prices — a drill \$25.00, binder \$85.00, horse drawn mower \$10.00. We also purchased cows to milk, and pigs that later got out and ate my strawberry plants.

In 1959 I lost my right arm in a hay mower accident so we went into raising chickens and selling eggs more extensively. In 1972, we sold our farm to Knut Toft. We bought a home in Sylvan Lake where we retired and still reside.



Knut Toft and Hugo the day of Hugo's sale, April, 1973.



Hugo Selstrom receiving Gold Medallion in 1980 from Jack Campbell, MLA.

Becky Sjare — Sports History

by Heather Sjare

A history of this type is difficult to write without sounding like bragging parents; proud yes, as all parents are of their family accomplishments. We are delighted to have been asked to write a history of Becky's athletic achievements. Becky's accomplishments are too numerous to list, the following is a summary of her most notable achievements.

Becky took part in her first track meet in 1964 at the age of 6 years. In 1969, at the age of 11, she joined the Red Deer Optimist Catalina Swim Club, and competed for about six years under coaches, Nelson Deck and Don Moore. Her first swim meet was in Dec. of that year in Stettler. Here she won her first ribbons, a third and fourth, in free style and breast stroke, which proved over the years to be her favorites. Competing Provincially and Nationally, setting and breaking records, she received many awards, and still holds a number of Catalina Swim Club records. Holly and Mike joined a few years later. We had very early hours, having to be at the pool every morning by 6:00 AM.

Becky continued to compete all through school, college and university, belonging to track clubs, canoe clubs and sports organizations. In May of 1975, she was named Red Deer's Athlete of the Year. Several major accomplishments qualified her for this award. In Calgary at Alberta's First Summer Games (1974) with Holly's help, they won gold medals in canoeing. An interesting factor she won the very first gold medal to be presented at the summer games. At Central Alberta Western School Athletic Associa-

tion, (CAWASAA) regional track meets she set records in the 400 metre race, shot put and javelin. She held the Alberta High School Provincial record in javelin. Competing in Saskatoon, June 15, 1974, Becky won gold medals in shot put and javelin, breaking the Alberta record in javelin. In the Western Canada Championships she won the junior championship in javelin. In the Prairie Regionals (Midgets) Competition she was again successful in winning gold, silver and bronze medals in javelin, shot put and the 800 metre race.

In August she won the senior javelin, competing with others who were well above her age group. She also won the high jump. In succession came gold medal wins in shot put at Canadian National Age Group Championships, and medal wins at the Canadian International Indoor meet. She placed third in the CWASSA "B" girls basketball competitions and most of the CWASSA cross country championships.

In August, 1975, she lit the torch at the Opening Ceremony of the Alberta Summer Games in Red Deer. She was a guest at the Montreal Olympic



Becky Sjare winning the Canadian Championship in Shotput at the Third Canada Summer Games at St. John's, Nfld. in Aug. 1977.



Becky Sjare receiving the Alberta Achievement Award from Peter Lougheed. A winner in 1976 and 1977.

Games, representing Girl Guides of Canada. She was a Ranger with the Sylvan Lake Company and was accompanied by their leader Marg Ramsey at the time.

In 1976 Becky won Red Deer "Athlete of the Year" — for the second consecutive year. She had added many gold, silver and bronze medals to her credit. She held several Alberta and Canadian Championships. This time she won Alberta League scoring championship in basketball. She was also a CWASSA All Star. During that winter she took up the Pentathlon and won a bronze medal at the indoor meet.

1976 found her in Red Deer College. She played volleyball with the Queens. They won Alberta Colleges Athletic Conference and placed second in the Western Canada championships and went to the Nationals. She was selected to the CCAC All Star volleyball squad. She won the ACAC cross country race and was on the canoe team which also won at the ACAC championships. At the Awards Night, she was chosen Outstanding Female Athlete of the Year.

Becky was honored to be chosen as a member of

the Alberta Team at the Third Canada Summer Games at St. John's, Nfld. August 7 to 19, 1977. She was flag bearer for the Alberta Team at the opening of the games. In these events she won a gold medal in shot put and a bronze in javelin.

From the Red Deer College Becky went to the University of Alberta where she competed with the university teams in cross country events and track and field. She is a member of the Edmonton Olympic Club and competes for Alberta and Canada through this club. Nationally she rates with Canada's top five Athletes.

Becky has on two occasions received the Alberta Achievement Award from Peter Lougheed. She was chosen to attend a luncheon in Ottawa, where the Queen was present. She was further honored by being chosen as Parade Marshall for the Westerner Annual Fair Parade.

With hopes of qualifying for the Canadian team which would compete in the 1980 Olympic games in the U.S.S.R. she took leave from her university studies to train in Nanaimo, B.C. As Canada withdrew from the entry of the games Becky returned to her studies in Honors Zoology, at the U. of A. She continues to be active.

The years of hard work with her coaches, the many trips from coast to coast, meeting other athletes from all parts of Canada, the joy of success as well as tears, defeats and frustrations have been a rich and rewarding experience.

Sjare, Bernard and Heather

by Heather

FR S ½-5-39-28-W-4

Bernard was born at Sylvan Lake Aug. 21, 1923. He moved with his family to the Norma District in 1928. He received his education at Norma School from teachers Miss Kask, Miss Byres and Mary Sjare (not everyone has to deal with a sister as their teacher). He left school to farm with his father.

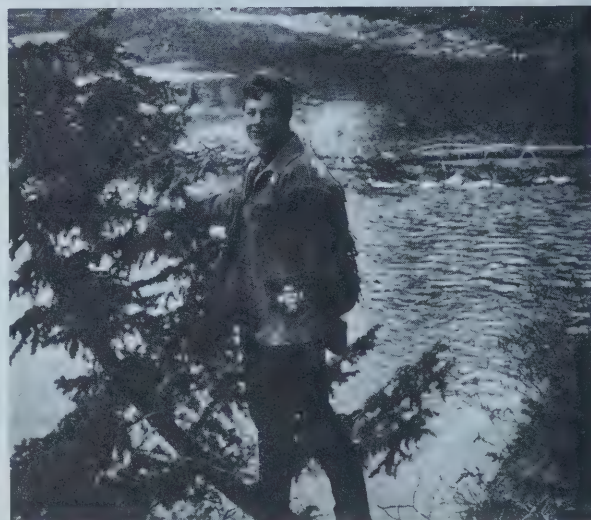
For a number of years during the winter months he worked with United and G.S.I. Oil Companies in Northern Alberta. Over the years he has worked with different firms in the area.

In June, of 1956, we were married at Sylvan Lake (nee Heather Hodgson), and it rained like you wouldn't believe, the first rain of a very hot dry spring. We lived in town from 1956-1961, during which time we built our present home, on FR S ½-5-39-29-W-4, which was a wedding gift.

I, Heather, was born in Drumheller, April 3, 1937, moving with my parents at the age of six from Rosedale, where dad was a coal miner, to the Norma District. I received part of my education at Norma School, with teachers Sue Parks, Mrs. Huss, Doil



Bernard Sjare.



Heather Sjare.

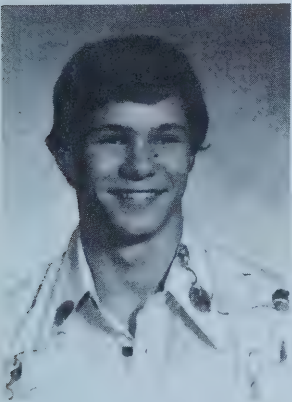
Hem, Mrs. Gibson and Mrs. Lees. I took Highland and Tap dancing for six years, and took part in a number of Highland Games. After finishing high school in Red Deer, Sylvan Lake and Nordegg, I worked for A.G.T.

With the passing of Bernard's father we took over the home place, and continued to farm Mary's and John's land until they were rented by Armitage Bros.

Bernard worked with the Sylvan Lake Police Force from 1956-1966, during the summer months. He was employed with Electric Light and Power until his passing on Aug. 10, 1980, for the City of Red Deer.

We have a boarding kennel, and for a number of years raised and showed Samoyeds and Schepperkes.

We have been involved with young people over the years. Bernard was Scout Master and was at the World Jamboree at Banff in 1958. I have been with Brownies, Guides and C.G.I.T.; also a coach with the Catalina Swim Club for seven years. We enjoy all types of sports.



Micheal Sjare.

As members of the Presbyterian Church, Bernard served on the Board of Managers, and was a member of the Kirk Session. I belonged to the ladies Church Group.

There are three children:

Becky — April 25, 1958 — She received her education at Sylvan Lake, Red Deer College, and U of A, where she is taking a B.Sc. Honors program in Zoology. She was in Brownies, Guides and Rangers. She represented Canada at the Montreal Olympics as a Ranger for the Guides of Canada. She is very involved in all sports, and in track and field, and has become one of Canada's promising athletes. She has a number of provincial and national championship records. She was twice Athlete of the Year for the City of Red Deer, and once for the Red Deer College. Becky enjoys art, and outdoor living. At present, 1980, she is training in B.C. and works with the B.C. Fish and Wildlife.

Michael — March 16, 1962 — A chosen son, received his education at Sylvan Lake and St. Albert. Since leaving school, he has worked at a number of jobs. He is interested in sports and swam for four years with the Catalina Swim Club as a competitor. He is very musical and plays guitar with the Presbyterian Youth Group at Sylvan Lake. While in



Holly Sjare, Red Deer College Queens' 1978-1979.



Hollybeck Kennels Reg'd. Top L.: Frosty Ch Hollybecks Black-cinder. Top R.: Lonesome, Ch Von Kay's Tom Thumb. Centre: Holly and Little John of the Hills. Ch Snowboy. Centre R.: Chico and Nugget. Bottom L.: Heather and Ch Hollybecks Snowboy. Bottom R.: Chico.

school he played basketball for Sylvan Lake. At present he is living at Stettler.

Holly — May 15, 1960 — Holly received her high school education at Sylvan Lake. She attended Red Deer College for two years and the University of Alberta in an Outdoor Ed. Program. She, too, is involved in all types of sports, enjoys water skiing

and down hill. She has played volleyball with the Red Deer College Queens for two years. This year she was runner up for Athlete of the Year at the College. She is a life guard at the Red Deer pool. She's interested in show dogs and owns Schepperkes and a St. Bernard, (Little John).

John Sjare Family

by Heather Sjare

John was born in Jostedal, Sagn, Norway, Sept. 17, 1880. He left Norway in June of 1900, going to Stoughton, Wisconsin. In Dec. of 1904, he came to Canada and the Evarts District to visit an uncle, Andrew Faagberg. He liked the country and decided to stay.



Clara and John Sjare, June 1915.

In 1906 he made his home with the Martin Loken family who had come from Norway in 1896 to Wisconsin, and later to the Burnt Lake and Evarts district by covered wagon. They farmed in partnership for some years. John proved up a homestead in the Withrow District, which he later sold, and bought the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of 9-38-2-5. He cleared and farmed this land until it was sold to the Stainiforths of Evarts.

In June, 1915, he married Clara Loken and

farmed SW $\frac{1}{4}$ -16-38-2-W5, 1 mile east of Evarts. Farming was done with horses and oxen and a wooden plough.

There were four children. Elmer and Mary born at Evarts, Bernard at Sylvan Lake, and Johnny in Red Deer.



Mary, Elmer and Bernard home from school.

While in the Evarts area he helped build the first telephone line and was a foreman on many of the road building crews.

John Sjare moved from his farm in the Evarts District to the town of Sylvan Lake due to ill health in 1926. During that time he bought a farm and started building a home in the Norma District on NE 10-39-1-W5. In the spring of 1928 they moved and lived in a granary until the house was finished that fall. In the years 1938 and 1939, more land was bought from a Trust Company, NE-1-39-1-W5 and the SE-1-39-1-W5. Later, in 1945 FR S $\frac{1}{2}$ -5-39-28-W4 was bought from Seukston Soderberg, which is now the home of Heather and Bernard Sjare and family.

Winter nights in the Norma District were spent listening to one of the first radios around; visiting neighbors — J. Zimmerman, Fauher, Pickerings, Kingseps, and later Ron Hodgsons, playing cards at Norma School, and neighborhood surprise parties with lunch, music and dancing.

In 1929, John bought a new Pontiac from Fred

Moore, who is still in the business of selling cars in Red Deer. Their first tractor was bought from Ed Valley in 1939, and a welcome change from all the horses. He purchased a threshing machine in 1943, and a crew of neighbors helped during the harvest. John also did the grading of the road.

John was on the Norma School Board many years. The family received their education at Norma School from teachers: Miss Kask (Mrs. Hughes) Miss Lillian Byers (Mrs. C. Duffield); Mary Sjare (Mrs. Paul Ritchie) and Louise Kenny who boarded with her sister Lillian at the Sjare home. Lillian taught at Durham School.

John farmed with his son Bernard until his passing in Nov. 1957. Clara lived at Sylvan Lake until her passing in May 1971.

In later years, 6 acres were subdivided out of the NE-10-39-W5, the home place, and sold to Fred Sjoquist. It is now owned by Fred and Ruth Lyons, who have re-modelled the old home.

The SE-1-39-1-W5 was sold in 1973 to Cyril Curran who built a home on it. It was re-sold a number of times and is owned by David Huepelsheuser from Blackfalds. Mary still owns the NE-1-39-1-W5 where the Prevo elevator once stood.

Elmer Sjare

January 29, 1916-Nov. 5, 1973

Elmer was raised in the Norma District, where he received his education. He married Lily Holm of Eckville and moved to the Sjare farm at Evarts, SW-16-28-2-W5, living there for many years. Later he worked for the Federal Government in the Northwest Territories. After moving to B.C. he worked for the B.C. Public Works Department as a heavy duty mechanic, until his passing in 1973. There were four children, Sharon, Kathleen, Gerald, and Gaylord. Lily passed away in Dec. of 1976.

Johnny Sjare

John was born in Red Deer March 11, 1939. He went to school at Norma, with teachers Sue Parks, Mrs. Gibson and Mrs. Lees. He received his high school at Red Deer Composite High and a B.Sc degree in engineering U of A Edmonton. He is employed with International Business Machines, IBM. At present he lives in Toronto, but has spent a number of years in South America, New York, U.S.A., Vancouver and Winnipeg in administrative positions. He married Darlene (Joy) Sorensen of Drumheller May 12, 1962. They have a chosen son Jason. Joy is a music and school teacher and an ardent curler. She received her education in Drumheller and at U of A Edmonton.

Sjare, Mary

Mary Sjare was born on the homestead farm a mile east of Evarts. By school age the family had moved to Sylvan Lake where she attended school for the first five years. The family then moved to the farm in the Norma District where Mary and Elmer attended the old log school for several years. Hiking



Mary with children Toby and Sherry.



Paul and Mary Ritchie.

in the woods and playing ball were great sports in those days. Later, the new school was built and with Miss Kask as teacher they took grades nine and ten in the rural school. In grade eleven Mary and Elmer drove a buggy or cutter to Sylvan Lake School. Mary finished grade twelve at the Red Deer High School, later to attend Camrose Normal School. The first two years of teaching were at Norma School. Then she moved to the Birch Lake School, east of Lacombe and taught there for three years before moving to Clive Village, teaching elementary classes for two years. The next move was three years of teaching in the town of Lacombe. These were the war years.

After marrying Lloyd Jones of the Chigwell area, Mary spent several years on the farm where David and Sherry were born and spent their early childhood.

Mary went back to teaching, a year in Clive, three years in Edmonton and later moved to Red Deer, where she taught in West Park Elementary, and Annie L. Gaetz.

After thirty years of teaching, Mary retired and has married Paul Ritchie, former principal of West Park Elementary School.

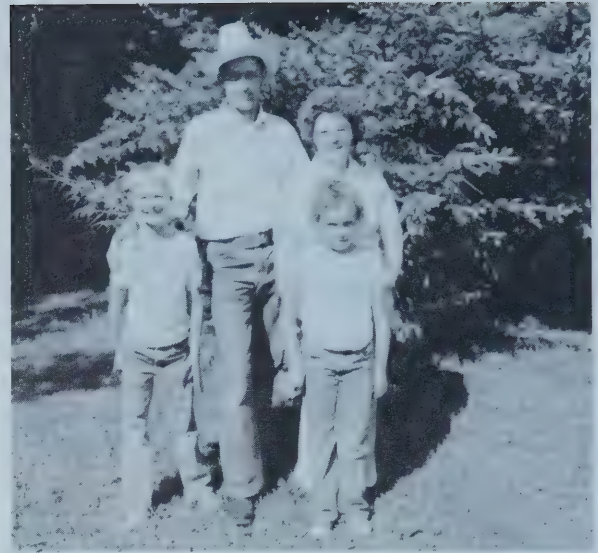
Sherry graduated as a teacher from U.B.C. and has been teaching in Nelson, B.C. David, who changed his name to Toby Sandwell, and his wife Lorae and adopted son Ross, live in Vancouver where Toby works with an air conditioning and refrigeration firm.

Hardy and Kathryn Sonnenberg
Part of SE ¼-35-38-1-W5, this land was formerly owned by Mr. and Mrs. Murel Ramsey.

Hardy was born in Brightview, Alberta (near Wetaskiwin) on Jan. 29, 1937. He is the ninth child in a family of eleven belonging to Emil and Martha Sonnenberg who immigrated to Canada from Germany in 1928. There are six boys and five girls. They homesteaded in the Fletcher School District where Hardy took his schooling.

Hardy came to Red Deer in 1955, because he liked the area. He got a job mixing mud for bricks on the Gaetz Memorial United Church. In 1959, after working on the rigs and as a swamper for Rehn Cartage, he started plumbing and has been at it since. We have lived in Drumheller and Calgary, following his line of work.

I, Kathryn, was born in Didsbury on Sept. 14, 1940. I'm the eldest of a family of eight, six girls and two boys, born to Eldon and Leora Thompson. My father was born and raised in Ontario. My mother was born and raised on a farm near Delia, Alberta. My parents still live on the South Hill in Red Deer. I



Curt, Hardy, Kathryn and Jody Sonnenberg, 1980.

went to school in Red Deer at the Elementary School and then LTCHS. I took my secretarial training in 1958 at Hendersons. I worked for seven years at CFB Penhold as a clerk typist. I continued working while we lived in Calgary.

Hardy and I were married in the Gaetz Memorial United Church on September 12th, 1959. We bought the acreage in Oct., 1966, the land was bare and had no buildings, just what Hardy wanted. We started building in May 1967, our Centennial Project. We took a lot of teasing about the size of our home, it is 20' x 126' — but finally we had a couple of children to help fill it up. We had a lot of help building our home from both family and friends.

We have two children — a boy Curt born on June 2, 1972 and a girl, Jody, born on April 20, 1974. They were both born in Calgary. They attend the C.P. Blakely School in Sylvan Lake. Curt and Jody have two very favorite people in the district "Uncle" Sam



Jody Sonnenberg's log playhouse built by Dad from logs from Rocky, 1979.

and "Auntie" Lila Bahler, our neighbors to the south. We love the outdoors. The children snowmobile in winter and in summer we all go camping.

Hardy raises Arabian Horses as well as working as a plumber and is busy keeping our place spic and span. I have the garden and the chickens, and I bowl with a group of ladies in the winter.

We all like the acreage, as Curt says, "It's OK in the summer, but super in the winter." We live in a great community. The neighbors are helpful, friendly and fun.

Steer, Franklin and Frieda

by Steer family

Franklin was born in Jansen, Nebraska in 1898. He came to Alberta to make his home with his grandparents in the Joffre area. Franklin and Frieda Jacobsen were married June 25, 1919. They lived in the Joffre area until 1951 when they bought PT NE ¼-34-38-1-W5 in the Norma District.



L. to R. back: Franklin, Frieda, Marguerite, Angeline, Grandpa Steer, Oscar Carlson, Clifford Sparks. Front: Frieda Jean, Bill, Vic, Mrs. Sparks (Franklin's sister) Cap.

Steers had seven children, four boys and three girls.

Robert passed away in March 1939, the result of an accident with a horse.

Angeline married Nick Linden of Clive. They have two married children and three grandchildren. Lindens live in Medicine Hat.

Marquerite married Bill Chewkensk from Saskatchewan. They have 8 children.

Frieda Jean married Pete Tayles of Blackfalds. Pete was an oil driller and was killed on the job in Jan., 1958. They have two children, Dwayne married and living in Red Deer. Jeannie is married and lives in Carstairs. Dwayne and Jeannie both attended school at Norma. In 1960 Frieda Jean married Pius Senger who works for AGT. They now live in Red Deer.

Clifford (Cap) is an oil worker as well as a farmer. He bought the home place from his parents.



Clifford (Cap), Wilma, Darin, Rhonda, Christine.

In Jan. 1956 he married Wilma Walker. They built a new house, garage and barn on the place before they moved out here in Aug., 1977. Cap and Wilma have two girls and a boy. Rhonda works in Rocky Mountain House as a key punch operator. Darin is going to high school in Sylvan Lake. He plays hockey with Midget A team in Red Deer. Christine goes to school in Sylvan Lake. She belongs to the pony club in Benalto.



Cap Steer with ponies.

William (Bill) is married to Betty Fass. They moved from Medicine Hat to Red Deer in 1964. They have four children. Bill always worked on construction.

Victor was born Oct. 1934. He took his schooling at Brookfield and Lacombe. Vic married Norma Gusek of Lacombe. They have two boys and two girls. Vic and Norma make their home at Coronation.

Franklin was a great trader, he always said he

would trade anything but his wife and family if he could see a dollar in it.

Frieda passed away in March 1977 and Franklin in Dec. 1978. Cap and Wilma live on the home place.

Pete St Peter

by Ada Hagerman

Pete came with twenty-one people from Saginaw. He was a hard working little fellow. He worked by the day for anyone who needed extra help. He had some land on the west side of the Lake. Sometimes he worked for a Mr. Kerr who owned a flour mill in Calgary. Kerr had five acres and several houses on the north side of the Lake. St Peter had his own house but Kerr's often gave him his meals, during the summer months. His stone flower beds and walls are still on that property.

Glen W. Thompson

On August 15, 1952, Glen succeeded Jim Park as the grain buyer for the United Grain Growers at Prevo. Glen, Gwyn and Rory moved into the company house and ten days later a second daughter, Terry Lee, was born.



Gwyn and Glen Thompson.

The Thompsons remained at Prevo for eight years. During that time they enjoyed curling with the farmers. Glen played with and coached the Durham Men's softball team. Their first son David was born October 20, 1957 and even though he was given a family name it seemed fitting to have a David Thompson in that area. Rory and Terry were bussed to the River Glen School in Red Deer for three years. Those years in the Norma School District bring back fond memories of wonderful neighbors and friends, and good times.

In the summer of 1959, Glen was transferred to

Didsbury with the company. He remained with the Grain Growers until March 1964 when he started employment with Canadian Superior Oil at Harmattan. A second son, Cameron, was born in August, 1961. Glen and Gwyn are still living at Didsbury. Rory and her husband, Tim Wolf, and two daughters, Kelly and Avy live at Innisfail. Terry and her husband, Gary Russell, and daughter Kimberly live at Didsbury. David is employed by Imperial Oil at Redwater and was married July 12, 1980. Cameron is employed at Johns Manville at Innisfail and started attending SAIT in September, 1980.

Jack Henry Tanche

by Fay L. Tanche

Jack was born Jan. 22, 1926 in the farm home of his parents, John and Germaine Tanche. Dr. Naismyth officiated at his birth assisted by Mrs. Jarvine, and his father, John Tanche. He was named Jacques Henry, but was later registered by the clerk for the statistics office as Jack Henry.

Jack's father was a serious hard working young man trying to make a go of it on his farm. His mother, although young, was already one of those natural born good French cooks. She was fun loving and vivacious, loved to go to dances and parties. She used to push Jack in his wicker carriage 1½ miles to town to get away from the drudgery of farm life.

Part of the farm was used as an airfield for some of the early pilots who flew by the seat of their pants. One of those early young pilots was Joe Patton whom Germaine married some years later.

Jack and his father batched in those early years. Their main diet was cocoa and bread for breakfast, eggs and french fries for the other couple of meals. These were the depression years when a cow sold for \$6.00, a pig for \$4.00 — barley was .11¢ a bushel and wheat .25¢ a bushel. Looking back, one wonders how people survived such hard times.

Jack went to Norma School on Brownie, his



Jack on Brownie. Joe Patton's car.

beloved horse and best friend. His dad had acquired Brownie through trading a five ton haystack on old Burnt Lake. Every afternoon at 3 o'clock Brownie would be back at school waiting for Jack to come out and go home.

Often, though, they made a detour to G'pa and G'ma Lemoine's farm just down the road from the school for a cup of cocoa and fresh home made bread. Riding home, hearing the crunch of frosty snow under Brownies hoofs, with the cold wind blowing in his face and being warm and cozy inside from his snack at Grandmas was a real pleasure.

Jack did see his mother. In the summer she rented a cottage at Sylvan Lake and Jack would stay with her. Sometimes she came to see Jack's Christmas Concerts.

Besides his mother, the only lady or girl he would get close to or even sit beside was Marthe Dathe, one of a French family that lived on the Shenk farm and who was affectionately called Mart. They were the Tanche's nearest neighbors. Mart, her sister Solange and her mother and father, Charlie and Bernard Shenk, were Jack's second family and second home. Years later they would tell about this big horse galloping into the yard with this little boy on it. They were all very kind to Jack.

When Jack was little he understood the French language but didn't speak it much as his father wouldn't allow it to be spoken at home. He felt that as they were living in an English speaking country they should speak English.

The French people would sometimes gather at the Shenk's for a get together and the French would start flying, everyone talking and laughing at once as French people do. The bottle, in farmer style, came out on the kitchen table with the glasses. Jack remembers one Christmas when Mrs. Rousseau and some other ladies got his dad, who didn't drink, to have a few.

The Shenk brothers always good naturedly, teased the life out of Jack. He admired Charlie and Bernard, who came from Switzerland and were good yodelers. The biggest thrill was to be in town and hear one brother start to yodel and then the other would answer. On a clear frosty night that yodeling could be heard for miles around.

Those were good winters when the kids would spend Saturdays and Sundays bob-sledding and ice skating. The summer time and holidays were spent swimming in Sylvan Lake. Probably every boy for miles around learned to swim almost as soon as he learned to walk.

One time Jack's Dad was swimming with Rex, the old dog, way out on the lake, the dog got tired and

almost drowned dad trying to hitch a ride back to shore.

Then there was the store where a bag of candy was 5¢ and there was always ice-cream. Jack's dad used to make it with ice from the Lake that was stored in big chunks in an ice house all summer.

Around the time when Jack was 8, a Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Thevenaz and son Mitch moved to the area and stayed with the Cuendet's until they got settled on their own farm. Mitch and Jack were about the same age so Jack had a buddy to ride the pigs and tease the old goat. One day the goat got Jack trapped between the fence and the barn door and was bunting him against the barn door. Maurice Thevenaz came out and cracked it over the head with a 2 x 4, the goat went staggering away shaking its head. He probably saved the kid's life.

Maurice was the strongest man Jack had ever seen, he could life a cultivator off the ground all by himself. One day Mitch and Jack saw him chop his thumb almost off. The boys took him to town and the nurse sewed it back on.

It wasn't often that dad ran out of patience with his son, but there were times; one of these times John was furious with Jack, probably for some deserving thing, and he shut him in the cellar. After a while dad began to feel so badly he lifted the latch to call the kid up and there was Jack eating a jar of peaches. He said, "Would you like some dad? They're good."

Some summers Jack's Uncle Leo, Aunt Lucienne Ledieu and their family of girls would come from Crows Nest Pass to stay at the farm and visit the lake. The girls took their baths in an aluminum tub, upstairs in the pump house. They always tried to peek at Jack when he had a bath so one Saturday he thought he would get even and peek on them, only the trap door fell down and bumped his head. Uncle Leo always a great tease, called Jack "The Peeker" after that.

Some of the friends and neighbors during those years were the Armeneaus, Bellfontaines, Cuendets, Rousseaus and Wards. Growing up and spending more time at Sylvan Lake, some of Jack's best buddies were, Jack Sunell, Harvey Brown, Hughie Lerner and Frank Covacs.

The summer Jack was 14 he worked for the Henry Wards to help with the haying. That fall he worked for the Shenks driving tractor, cutting grain and driving bundle team for threshing. The team of horses Bernard gave him were named Jim and Tarzan. Tarzan was his favorite. That ornery horse, Jim, would step on his foot every time he went into the stall and then look around at him and horse laugh. Jack tried to keep up with the men this first year threshing, but by

the third day Mart kept him home, sick in bed. After that day he finished harvesting with the rest.

The next year's harvesting, Jack's dad was a field pitcher and would help Jack and Mitch load up their racks until the first sheaf fell off, then he would walk away. Trying to be as good as the men the boys would try to top more on their load to bring in the largest loads to the threshing machine. Bernard and Charlie would spike pitch into the threshing machine to give Jack a rest, but when they found out he was going to town in the evenings they quit helping. After that Jack was too tired to go to town.

Jack started hunting at an early age. He owned a .22 rifle at about 8 and used to shoot gophers. He and his friends hunted rabbits and birds. They would cook the birds over the open fire while they were out as his dad wouldn't eat them at home.

One winter Hughie Learned and Jack, both 14, Hughies' dad and 3 other men went hunting west of Leslieville, between the Little Wolf Creek and the Saskatchewan River. They would hunt from a cabin at Little Wolf to a cabin at the river and then back the next day. One night Hugh and Jack got lost and stayed overnight by the creek. They lit a fire and kept it going all night for warmth and because wolves were around their camp. It was so cold that they sat so close to the fire they burned their boots. When one boy took his turn to get more wood, the other kept his gun ready. It was scary.

Next morning they didn't know where camp was so decided to go up stream first, then back down as they knew the creek ran into the river. They travelled until noon and then turned to cover more ground while it was daylight and found the cabin within one mile from where they had camped.

At age 15 Jack went to work at High River. His step-dad, Joe, got him a job swinging props for the Air Force and he stayed with his mother and little sister Joannie. Jack enjoyed the family atmosphere and they had lots of fun while he was there. The following year Jack and his dad moved to B.C. to start a new phase of their lives.

At age 16, Jack bought his first car. It was a 1929 Model A Ford Roadster. In 1943 he worked for the Boeing Aircraft at Vancouver. In 1944 he joined the Army and in 1947 he married Shirley Anne Howard, later divorced. In 1952 he was discharged from the Army. From 1952 to present Jack's main occupation centred around driving. Currently he drives and does commentary on bus tours from Vancouver — east to the Rocky Mountains. One of the highlights of his career was in the army in 1951. He was chosen to drive in the Royal Tour parade, November 1951, for the then Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip.

Jack has two children: Jay Howard Tanche a driv-

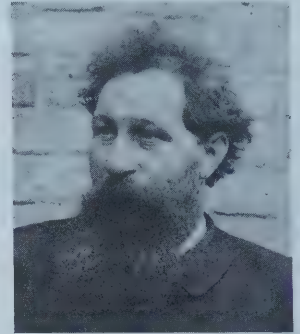
er and Janice Adele Tanche a log scaler. They both live in the Vancouver area. One granddaughter, Renee lives in Surrey, B.C. Jack married for the second time in 1961 to Fay Leota (Cornish) Gregory.

The French Socialist Colony

by John Tanche

— 1906 to its disintegration shortly after — started by Dr. Tanche reported by his son John.

Dr. Adalbert A. C. Tanche was born at L'Oberque, near Dunkerque, France. Died in 1917 at Petite Sainte, France. Photo taken probably in 1904 at Lille where he practised medicine.



Starting with Dr. Adalbert Tanche, born at Loberg, near Dunkerque, France, the son of a school teacher, he became a school teacher himself. Teaching school during the day, studying with a coal-oil lamp at night he became a medical doctor. Besides his profession he immersed himself in the study of political economic issues of his day, and embraced the socialist philosophy in its very infancy. Taking care of his patients by day, writing articles at night in defence of the coal miners, it was with this background that he became a leader in the miners struggle for a decent living. He was behind the scenes, organizing a miners' strike in the coal basin in the vicinity of Vieux-Conde. Belgians were brought in, backed with the full force of the French Government. The strike was lost. Those who took part lost their jobs, this no doubt was the ferment that occasioned the emigration of the Menue Family of coal miners.

Grand pere Minue, a blacksmith; his son Leonide a miner; Lemoine, a son-in-law and Dath, another son-in-law: formed with the Vasseur family the backbone of the colonists who expatriated themselves to the "promised land."

Among the Vasseur family were Gustave, Moise, Ismael, Paul, Nestor and George. Moise became a priest. Ismael was a civil engineer. Gustave had his "Brevel Superieur". Paul was a butcher. Nestor was actually the only farmer, the least educated, but he made good in this country. George was a lad of fifteen at this time.

There were also: Guidon a carpenter and Rolan a machinist, Bion and Bagne, I believe from Lille, also

machinists and the Grundler girls Caroline and Henriette. Caroline had been my governess to teach me German. Caroline, presumably had never seen a cow before, and on going to the corral at the colony inquired what cow she was to milk. She was directed to the bull by Guidon, a practical joker, much to the hilarity of everyone.

Two more colonists were Eugene Laurent and my Uncle Louis Bertiau, professor of music with a decoration of "The Legion d'honneur" and a friend of Jules Verne. Louis died at Sylvan Lake of a heart attack brought about by a prairie fire that was threatening to burn the building. He was buried, as was the custom of those days, on the old Sylvan Lake place, in an unmarked grave.



Year 1885 — Professor of Music, Louis Bertiau taught in Armentieres and Auisan, France. Died around 1910 at Sylvan Lake, was buried on SW¼ 34-38-1-W5th.



Julia Armeline Carelle Tanche, John Tanche's mother. The second woman druggist to graduate in France.

My mother, brought up in a convent, was a school teacher and a fabulous pianist. She was one of three sisters, two of which were pianists also. One was the first woman to ever pass her druggists examination in France. It was decreed at that time that women didn't have sufficient intelligence to become druggists. My mother, also a druggist and with my father, a doctor, became quite well-to-do, but were ill equipped to become efficient settlers in a country they knew nothing about. They knew nothing at all about agriculture, but father had hitched his boundless enthusiasm to the tail of a comet, and the colony lasted as

long as the collective money lasted, especially that of my parents.

The first mistake was probably due to the fact that Gustave Vasseur, who went ahead, did not locate in a place where the colonists could each one take a homestead. He drifted to Sylvan Lake, where there was already a French Settlement, probably ten years after the homesteads had already been taken up. Poor housing, lack of privacy and collective eating at a long table, these disadvantages were too much for people who were groping in the dark, with very little knowledge of where to start.

On behalf of my father, Gustave purchased a fractional part of SE¼ 34-38-Wt and FN½ of 27-38-1-W5, Fractional, as part of the land was covered by the water of Burnt Lake.

Here we were; a bunch of greenhorns from France, under the mis-direction and mis-management of a French Canadian. We lost most of the cattle. They froze to death without proper shelter in the terrible winter of 1906-1907.

Then a steam engine was purchased, thinking that they were going to revolutionize the work with four 24 inch breakers. The equipment mired in the mud every hundred yards.

Then another scheme, to produce lumber was begun. The steamer was brought to the shore of Sylvan Lake, between the mudholes, near where the boathouse stood up until 1980. Previously a quantity of poplar logs had been cut, boomed from what we called Third Point. A storm broke the boom and the logs scattered along the beach. After milling the logs they realized that poplar was not saleable, as it twisted like a corkscrew. A mill was established at Blackfalds, along the Red Deer River where they milled spruce. Again misfortune beset their labours. In the spring the lumber that was piled along the banks went drifting out of sight with the high river. It seems that this was the "Coup de Grace". Everything disintegrated. Moise Vasseur stayed a few years to help repay some of the mishaps of the colony.

The Sylvan Lake property was purchased from Mr. Neightle, where the Colony actually settled, he seemed to be a much better business man than the French Colonists. He had log buildings scattered over the area — building where trees were, as he had no way of hauling them. In his own house he kept the chickens upstairs. This protected them from the hawks and coyotes, whose daring you wouldn't believe.

Originally, that particular district was settled by Finlanders and Estonians, whose home country was the same type of country as Canada. With a ten dollar bill to file a homestead, an ax to put up a log house, a

supply of firewood, a cow or two, a few chickens and a job once in a while at "a dollar a day", they could weather the storm.

Overalls could be got for a dollar, as could a bag of flour. A yoke of oxen with a breaker would suffice to grow a bit of rye to make flour. The French Settlers never ate rye bread; they came here to do big things — and the country did not lend itself to do big things. It lent itself to accept colonists who were content to raise a family, and live under social benefit, coming from a poor country they made the best settlers of those days.

This story of the early days wouldn't be complete without a bit on our education. The school district was originally called The Finland School District. I presume early settlers; Faucher, Armeneau, Herman, Weber, Kingsep, Walters and Kask all had a hand in building the school. It was a one room poplar log school where four grades were taught. Shortly after I started there were eight grades. With so many I found it hard to concentrate. Somehow I managed a couple of grades a year for the three months of each summer that I attended. Seeding, haying and harvest often kept me away from school. It was too cold to have school in the winter. In spite of the large wood heater at one end of the room, the other end would be freezing. There was no water to begin with, so the boys got water from an old open top well about one eighth of a mile away, on the Weber property. Dipping our pail we would catch mice and gophers that had drowned and were in different stages of putrefaction. I never drank any of that water, I'd rather have died of thirst. The old school was just half a mile from the new school that was built on the highway (Norma School) which is now a residence. How times change, we didn't ask for much in those days but took it as it was; however most of the farmers were free of mortgages.

Burnt Lake, which covered part of the quarter we settled on, was shallow and muddy. Long reeds grew quite a distance from the shore, leaving all sorts of places for water birds. There was enough open water to take a canoe out — a real paradise for nature lovers. There was a beaver dam on the west side of the lake. You could approach the whole population of creatures and listen to the orchestra of song that formed a sort of balm for the soul. In late fall, with freeze up, the muskrat houses were visible from above the ice. These poor creatures we trapped to make a paltry dollar. Like all hunters and trappers I couldn't go by the old adage "live and let live", now I repent, and can hardly kill a fly.

Indians came to the lake to trap, pitching their white tents, grayed with smoke, close by. Muskrat carcasses were hung by the tail over the fire to be

smoked, while newly cooked baking powder biscuits were placed in front of them.

Civilization has caused the lake to be partly drained; the Alberta Central Railroad, later taken over by the CPR, ran through the south part of the lake. The orchestra of water fowl has gone, along with the hundreds of prairie chickens, alighting on the stooks, conversing in their guttural chatter. The ruffed grouse, drumming their wings in a hurried crescendo are also gone. The woods that remain are as silent as a grave. Who would ever believe that a bird civilization so abundant is now gone forever?

There was once a creek, now a dry bed, that connected Sylvan Lake with Burnt Lake. That creek was the route of millions of jackfish that swam to Burnt Lake to spawn, eventually getting into the Red Deer River. The farmers, in the spring, gathered on the banks to fish with snares and harpoons. They built fires to attract the fish. Wagon loads were taken out and fed to pigs. This creek is now part of the sewer system for the town of Sylvan Lake.

I can't say enough about the hunters paradise that was the land between the lakes. The cottontail rabbits made a settlers meal. Like the fish, many were snared as they went along their paths. There were also predators — coyotes abounded. While it was never known that they ever attacked anyone, when they let out their night howl, it sent shivers up your spine. They were all over. Their hunting was not confined to wild game, the farmer's chickens were easier picking.

Once my father shot a coyote and young George Vasseur, who was with him, picked it up and swung it over his shoulder, with its head dangling down behind his leg. All of a sudden young George started yollering in a terrified way. The coyote that had not breathed its last had grabbed him by the leg and wouldn't let go, in spite of the jumping around George was doing. That is the only attack on a human that I can recall.

I remember an event when I was nine or ten. I had to get the mail from the Post Office at Sylvan Lake. Archambault Brothers ran the post office which included the grocery store — the only one, a livery barn, and a stopping place, where one could stay overnight. A bedroom and meals cost twenty five cents, and a stop over for the horses about the same. To get to the Post Office I had to ford a slough, that was covered with green ooze. The ooze was belly deep on my horse and he took careful steps to make it across. My mortal fear was that perhaps he wouldn't make it to the other side and would dump me in the middle, the anxiety would return on the way back. That slough was where the present blacktop highway, next to the lake, is now.

The Green and Payne Cottages and the Archambault Store were the only buildings at what is Sylvan Lake today. With the Archambaults was Paul Ponce who took care of the livery stable. I don't remember where he went. I recall a number of other settlers who lived close to the present townsite of Sylvan Lake. One was Fred Gerald, a Belgian banker, how a Belgian banker ever got shipwrecked in Sylvan Lake, I'll never know. He homesteaded on First Point. There were Loquet Auguste and his sister Celina. They had a farming background, having come from St. Omer, near Dunkerque, France. He homesteaded the Third Point. He was an avid hunter and trapper and worked in logging camps. He even ate loon eggs that floated along the lake. He was the only practical French man, and could survive on almost nothing.

There were also the Rosses: Gaston, Edmond and Jos. I believe there were two of three sons and daughters Margarite and Janet. Jos had a store and post office which he later sold to the "Toys". He went to Switzerland, came back broke and started another store. I remember the Fauchers, with whom I went to Norma School. Ada, now Hagerman, still lives in the district.

I should mention old man Boquet, who homesteaded west of Faucher. I remember once helping him after an accident. While he was digging potatoes, his horses had a run-away. It was quite common in those days to have run-aways with wagons or field implements. The horses would run wildly until they ran into a tree or fence with everything smashed up and sometimes a crippled horse as well.

Charles Cuendet, who homesteaded in Leslieville, later bought the eighty acres of Dathe's that adjoined us on the west. His daughter, Lily, became a piano teacher in Red Deer. The first time I became acquainted with Charles was when he came to my place in 1910. He was taking Desordon, a Frenchman who went bezerk, to the mental hospital in Red Deer.

There were three bachelors who weathered many a storm. One, Walsh Petro, homesteaded the ¼ southwest of Faucher. Walsh was the community vet. He was a kindly man whose expression conveyed that he carried the world's pain and misery on his back. No doubt he had had his share, as there was plenty of it in those days. Jim Reinould, whose homestead is now the western part of Sylvan Lake was bachelor number two. The third was Alex Kalso who located northeast of Norma School. These three men were friends and were devoted to each other.

Alex Kask lived on NW ¼-34-38-W. His son John, became a banker and Elizabeth his daughter, was a teacher and taught at Norma School. He was a

practical farmer and didn't depend on just the growing of grain. His cows were his living. He kept them in a corral one year, then he grew cabbages in it the next year. He had a sign along the Red Deer road which read "Cabets for Sale." Out of this privation he paid \$1000.00 for a player piano. He died of cancer. His wife and a child had predeceased him during the flu epidemic. South of us, living in a small log house, were the Lindman family.

On the list of old timers were the Lindholms and Kingseps, Lenis and Eustes and Kidnes. The youngest of the boys located near Norma School.

Immediately after the break up of the Colony, Jean Depalme, a bank clerk from France came to the area. He did better than many of the French that came to Canada. They settled on what is known as the Johnson Place in the Burnt Lake District, eventually settling in the Penhold District. Frank Depalme, a son took over the farm.

Henry Chambon, with his family, came to Sylvan Lake. He was practically the only friend I had during my youth. They came during 1910 and bought the Whal place located directly south of the present Norma School.

Emile Bellefontaine came from Marmedi, Belgium. He was a waiter on the CPR trains. He married Andrea Chambom. His brothers, Gus, Charles and Leo followed him out here.

The Armeneaus were, I believe, original homesteaders. They had sheep and Mrs. Armeneau made their clothing from the wool. She also roasted barley for coffee. They had four boys. One, Jules, a mechanic, had the first threshing rig in the neighborhood. It was powered by a stationary one cylinder engine that was kept from jumping up and down like a kangaroo by a heavy brace from the front wheel spokes to the back. Felix, another son homesteaded west of his father's land. Part of Sylvan Lake is built on his place. Camille, was a lay preacher, and Daniel the youngest went to Norma School before my time. Most of Daniel's life was spent around Gull Lake, Sask., breaking hundreds of acres of prairie land. He came back to Sylvan Lake where he had a small machine shop.

Another of the original homesteaders south of Armendaus, was Saint Pierre, a French Canadian. He was a bachelor, a "happy-go-lucky" type who never took life too seriously. Eventually his homestead was purchased by a Captain Jones. Captain Jones used to get very put out when called Mister. He would retort to such an insult, "The King desires that I be called, "Captain". To cut trees he used to get into a cloth boiler to save cutting his feet.

My generation saw the end of the ox-cart days. With the coming of new settlers, the cutting of the



John Tanche on John Deere tractor with lugs.

trees and the working of the land, the wind started to blow and the country dried up. Smaller tractors made their appearance, taking the place of the cast iron monsters like the Mogul, and the oil pulled tractors. The Hart-Parr, the Waterloo and the Titan were three that were adaptable to this country. This was the beginning of the hay days and big business.

Of my branch of the Tanche Family tree there remain, myself and son, Jack, Jack's son, Jay and his daughter Janice. Janice has a daughter, Renee. Jack works with a travel agency. Jay freights heavy machinery, and Janice is a log scaler — an unusual job for a girl. My mother died in the Red Deer Hospital in 1916 and Father a year later in France.



The Wranch!!! — John Tanche.

Gus Wall

SE ¼ 12-39-1-W5

by Hilda Franklin

Gus lived on his homestead with his widowed mother, Lena Wall. He was a bachelor who had to eke out the settler's income, which was meager indeed, during the first decade of oxen power farming.



Lena (Lepp) Wall — 1924. Grandmother of Hilda Franklin. Great-grandmother of Barry and Darin Grimes.

The soil on his quarter was humus and the vegetables grew lush and kept in very good condition in a root cellar. His mother took care of the flock of chickens and Gus fed the oxen and cows, so they had milk, meat, butter and eggs. The wild berries were plentiful and in the ravine by the house was the best water in the world, a natural spring.

His mother (our grandmother) was a gracious lady who loved children. No visitor left her door without an offer of a cup of coffee.

Gus liked to skate and play his harp for recreation. He spent much of his time repairing watches and tinkering in his shop. After his mother passed away he moved to Sylvan Lake where he repaired watches and machinery. His final days were spent in the Rocky Mountain House Nursing home.

Peter Walters Family

by Eugenie Walters

My father, Wm. Peter Walters was born in 1871, in Maasi Wald, Saaremaa, Estonia. He taught school in the Oreku Russian Orthodox Church Parish for seven years. Tiring of teaching he went to St. Pe-



Pete Walters Family. Back: Alide. Front: Pete, Eugenie and Alma.

tersburg for a time. At that time the New York newspapers were advertising that free land was available in the North West Territories. Many Estonians were responding to those ads, among them John Kask who was married to my father's sister. They had arrived in North America in the late 1890's and homesteaded in the Norma District. With relatives already in Alberta Alex Kask and my father came together to Alberta in 1900.

Travel in those days across the Atlantic was by sail boat and often took five weeks. They left from Tallinn, Estonia, touching Hull and Liverpool and crossed the Atlantic to Halifax. They cooked their own meals in the steerage. From Halifax they crossed Canada by the C.P.R. Colonist train to settle in Sylvan Lake vicinity, where several Estonian families had already homesteaded.

Upon arrival, a job was the first necessity. My father worked first on the C.P. railway. Wages were one dollar per day, fifty cents of which he paid for board and room.

On October 7, 1907 my father became a British subject. His certificate of naturalization was signed by Arthur L. Sifton, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the North West Territories.

On March 23, 1904 he received notice of patent for SE ¼ 2-39-1-W5th, having fulfilled the requirements of the Land Registration Office of Northern Alberta. It was to be home for our family until about 1937.

The first building on the homestead was a two room log dwelling with a brick fireplace and a small lean-to porch. Later a log barn was built.

After working on the railroad, many of the Estonians, including my father, worked in the coal mines at Blairmore, Canmore and Exshaw. The Estonians

are a music loving people and most could read music, the men working in the mines soon had a men's choir organized. My father had a good bass voice.

My Uncle, Michael Walters came out shortly after my father and homesteaded near Burnt Lake. He moved to B.C. soon after, discouraged with trying to farm.

In 1903 my father wrote to my mother, Alma Kuningas, whom he had met in St. Petersburg, to come to Canada. After she arrived they were married by a Russian Orthodox priest in the log house my father had built. Thus mother was introduced at once to the hard, lonely pioneer life in a strange land, many times alone when father was out working. Tales of bears and Indians didn't add to her peace of mind. She had a cheerful and optimistic disposition and did not complain.

As my father acquired a team of oxen, a walking plow, discs and harrows he began to farm in earnest. Land clearing was all done by hand, stands of poplar and willow and plenty of rocks had to be removed.

We were twelve miles from Red Deer, going shopping to Red Deer was a full day's undertaking, with a team of oxen and wagon. If the oxen got tired they would lie down in their tracks and nothing would budge them, until they were ready — not even a fire built beside them.

When I began to remember we already had a team of horses. My sister was born three years after me and I can remember that event.

One story mother told of her early experiences was about a time when she was in bed with a severe attack of lumbago and couldn't move. Father was away working and one of the Neitel girls was keeping her company. On this particular day the girl came shouting into her room to say that the roof was on fire. Mother jumped out of bed instantly, together they put the fire out and the lumbago was also completely cured.

Mrs. Henry Kingsep told of a time when she had just finished baking a batch of bread. Some Indians came and demanded the loaves. Being at home alone and afraid, she gave them the bread.

One time a band of gypsies came to our house, demanded live chickens from my mother, threatening a curse if the chickens weren't forthcoming.

In the years 1908 to 1911 and later, our neighbors were the Rabideaus for a year or so, then the Prevos, the Rousseaus, the George Walts, later the Bellefontaines, Biena Kingsep, Dr. Taunche, Alex Kasks, Gus Wall and his mother, Peter Hermans, Webers, Fauchers, Petros, all people whom we knew well.

We children, growing up in those years went to the old Norma School, a log building with uncomfortable homemade desks. My first teacher was Miss

Symonds who taught me to read. Later teachers were Mr. Waldo Huestis, Mrs. O. Austin and Mrs. A. Schoonover. I enjoyed school and admired all my teachers, and I suppose chose teaching as a career because of that.

I went to High School in Red Deer and took Normal School Training at Camrose, the latter on a government loan, repayable in three years. My sister Alide and Elizabeth Kask batched at a Mrs. Smiths in Red Deer when they attended high school.

After finishing Grade XII Alide went to train as a nurse at the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Edmonton. Her training was interrupted by illness and she spent a year at the sanatorium near Bowness. She died at home Dec. 12, 1932.

My father had died Nov. 16, 1931 of a heart attack while cranking the car to start in order to go to vote. Politically he was a strong supporter of the UFA movement.

Interestingly, in June 1955, I received a cheque for 129.00 from the Alberta Wheat Pool, back pay from some wheat, 24 years after my father's death.

Some happy memories of our earlier growing up years were the house parties, especially the Christmas one, the sleigh rides under starry skies, the sparkling snow and the sound of sleigh bells. Mrs. Schoonovers' Christmas concerts and box socials to raise money for the war efforts were events in themselves. Young people of the district took part in entertainment and practising for it was the "mostest".

At the box socials the most elegantly decorated box got the highest bids at the auction and brought in quite sizeable amounts of money for the war effort.

Something else we enjoyed — when a number of young people went fishing at night for pike during the spring run on the creek running through the Alex Kasks' farm. A lantern, a copper wire snare, a lot of giggling young people together was all you needed for happiness.

After my father died mother tried to carry on farming, first with hired help and later Ernest Hughes, mother's nephew, tried to run the farm, but those were depression years and income was practically nil. Ernest married Elizabeth Kask and they went to live in Vancouver.

Shortly after that we had an auction sale, rented the land to the George Roziers and we moved to Port Kells, B.C. where the Walt family was living. After a few months in B.C. I came back to Centreville District to teach for three years.

After my mother passed away in 1942, I began to teach in the Surrey Municipality in B.C., first as principal in a three room elementary school, then at Lord Tweedsmuir Jr. High and finally for 14 years in

North Surrey High School, finishing as the Librarian with several grade ten English classes to teach as well. I retired in 1965 and have been living in Vancouver since 1954. My cousins, Marie and Olga, daughters of John Kask live here also. Last of all I want to say that I'm thankful to God for having good parents and a happy home to grow up in and that they chose Canada as their home land.

Walter, Ernie and Janet NW 5-39-28 W of 4

The first homesteader on this land may have been a man with the surname of Harvey, followed by Jack Demas, then bought by Arnold Kimball in 1950 or 1951. Ernest Water, the present owner purchased it in 1956.



Ernie Walter, Ellen Walter and Lloyd Herman.

Ernie came to the district with his mother and sisters in 1947, attended school at Aspelund and later in Red Deer. He was married in 1956 to Janet Wiley from Rimbey, and settled on the above farmsite.

A daughter Ellen was born in 1957. She attended school at Sylvan Lake, two years at Red Deer College and graduated from U of A in 1979 as P.E. teacher.

A second daughter, Lisa, was born in 1960. Lisa attended school at Sylvan Lake and is presently attending the U of A.

In 1960 the Walters purchased the SE ¼ 11-39-1-W5th from Dick Swainson and in 1966 we bought the NW ¼ 2-39-1-W5th from Kenneth Kingsep.

Janet Walter taught at River Glen in Red Deer 1956-1957 and for 15 years at Sylvan Lake. She retired in 1980 and is presently Parkland Area Girl Guide Commissioner.

Ward James Henry

SE Sec 2 T39 R1 W5

by Bea Ward

Henry was born at Worth Township, Michigan, on July 3, 1908. He was the only child of Olive Marion (Woodruff) and Elton James Campbell. His parents were both born in Michigan, U.S.A. He came to Canada with his mother in 1911 to the Okotoks area, and started school there. In 1916 Henry, his mother and stepfather, Thomas Ward, moved to Calgary where he finished his schooling at the Ramsey School. Henry drove a team with the household belongings from Okotoks to Calgary, quite a responsibility for a child of eight!

He worked as an apprentice melter at the Riverside Iron Works in Calgary. At that time, this was the only foundry between Vancouver and Winnipeg. He also drove a team on road construction, worked in a saw mill and at a box factory.

The future didn't look too bright in the city so in 1931, he rode horseback to the Caroline area to help a friend on a farm. He stayed there about a year and then via horseback came to the Norma District to the E. Wills farm in 1932. He broke, showed and rode horses in competition and worked at any job available. Employment was very scarce then. In the later '30's the government paid a farmer \$5 a month to hire a man and the hired man also got \$5. Most of the farmers gave their \$5 to the hired man too. Threshing wages in 1935 were \$1 per day to field pitch.

I (Bea) was born in Sesser, Illinois, on March 31, 1914 the first of four girls born to Emily (Abrassart) and Catherino Basso. My father came to the United States as a very young man and my mother was ten years old when she and her sister, Elise, (12 years old) came by boat to the U.S. in 1903.

I came to Canada via a new Jewett car with six members of my family — mother, grandmother, step-grandfather, step-uncle, aunt and uncle. My step-Uncle Raymond and I shared an original seat on our trip, a pail stuffed with cushions placed in the back floor area. Cars were much more roomy then. We would alternate from "pail seat" to front seat.

We came to the farm grandma and grandpa had left four years earlier. The first summer we all helped clear land on Mr. Hunt's place. I stayed there until 1925 when Mr. and Mrs. DeSmet took me in and raised me. Auntie and Uncle John, as they were known by everyone, were a wonderful couple and gave me a good home.

Henry and I were married November 26, 1935, in Red Deer. We farmed the A. Lemoine farm in the Norma District until March 1945 when we and our four children moved to the R. Lund farm northeast of Red Deer in the Balmoral District. In 1948, we



Bea and Henry Ward. 40th Anniversary, Nov. 26/75.

moved back to the Norma District with our six children, to the Rozier farm where we are still living. This farm was homesteaded by Pete Walter. We have the south part of the quarter as we sold 66 acres to G. Toporewski in 1964. This piece of land has been sold many times since and at present is owned by John and Donna Ellerby.

The early years were very busy — raising a family, milking cows, raising pigs, chickens, geese, turkeys, plus cattle to feed, hay to make etc., etc. Prices in 1935 to 1940 were low — cream was 15¢ per pound of butterfat, eggs were 3-4¢ per dozen, beef 14¢ a pound. Ready cash was certainly scarce but food was plentiful. Henry's idea was that we deserved to eat the best of what we raised.

We have farmed for almost 45 years — all but 3½ years of this time in the Norma District. All these years and those in the Balmoral District have been filled with many memories. We have always had wonderful friends and neighbors who were always ready to lend a hand whether it was moving day, sawing wood, baby sitting or any emergency. Neighbors, friends, and family are some of life's greatest blessings.

Our Family

Marion Beatrice — born October 25, 1937 — wed to William F. Rowat. They live in Calgary and have three children — Bradley, Terri and Carrie. Marion is "Bias Coordinator" at CFCN-TV in Calgary.

James Henry Jr. — born Nov. 24, 1938 — wed Brenda Sortland. They live in Arberdeen, Scotland, and have three boys — Stephen, Douglas and Dustin. Jim is "Station Superintendent" for BJ Services at Aberdeen, Scotland.



Back L.: Jim Ward, Darcy and Don Garrett, Sue and Peter Ward, Monty Ward. Middle row: Marion Rowat, Brenda Ward. Sandra Garrett, Dustin and Christopher Ward, Colleen Ward.

Dolores Ida — born Nov. 24, 1940 — wed to Donald S. Garrett. They live in Valleyview Subdivision and have three children — Daniel, Darcy and Sandra. Dolores is Employment Counsellor at Canada Man Power — Red Deer.

Thomas Eldon — born November 19, 1942 — lives in Michener Centre at Red Deer.

Peter John — born June 25, 1945 — wed Helene Monahan. He has three children from a previous marriage — Dawn, Tracey and Micheal. Peter is a senior fireman in Calgary.

Robert Montgomery — born April 11, 1947 — wed Patricia Kumm. They live at Lamont, Albert, and have two children — Christopher and Colleen. Monty is "Chemical Plant Operator" at Dow Chemical — Fort Saskatchewan.

I remember:

I remember the great adventure of coming to Canada — land of saskatoons and lots of snow to play in. I soon learned the hazards of picking saskatoons — I stepped on an ant hill and soon fled. I also learned snow was not all fun. The first snow fell heavily while Raymond and I were at school. I had never ridden a horse before and the 4½ mile ride to Poplar Ridge School was a long one. Our horse, Teddy, wouldn't let me get on so I thought I'd walk home. I don't know what might have happened to me if Bill Brown hadn't come along with his driving team and picked me up. He drove me to "Uncle Lute" Austin's farm where my aunt was looking for me. Raymond and I didn't go to school for weeks because of the snow. My first teacher was Miss Hilda Soderman. I also had Miss Pearl Mitchell and Miss Custance all at the Poplar Ridge School.

I remember Henry converting a binder to a

swather and then combining the grain in 1946-47. I'm sure many thought he was a bit off the track to attempt to combine in Central Alberta. He was convinced this was the way to harvest and proved his point.

I remember the big snow of March 1951. Henry and Murel Ramsey were in Red Deer when the storm began. They got back as far as the Crossroads School and had to abandon the car and walk six miles home over ten to twelve foot drifts of snow battling 78 mph winds. Highway 11, west of Red Deer was closed for a full week. It was the worst storm on record.

I remember the card parties and dances at Norma School. Whist was played first, then lunch served and then the dance with music by any one who could play a musical instrument. The country schools were a great place for both young and old to mingle together.

White, Henry

by B. White

Henry and I purchased our 80 acres — W ½ SE-3-39-1-5 in 1967 from R. Crory who returned to live in the Strathmore Area.

Henry was born in Moncton, N.B. in 1882, fifth in the family of 11 born to Donald and Pheobe (Osborne) White. Donald, his father, a building contractor, was born in P.E.I. He also had a small farm which kept his family busy. Henry came to Winnipeg in 1900.

I was born in Lancashire, England — fifth in a family of seven to Thomas and Eleanor (Robinson) Mason. My parents with the four youngest came to Winnipeg, Canada in 1906.

We were married in 1913, my elder sister (Eleanor) married Henry's brother, Russell in 1912, who had come to Winnipeg about 1911.



Henry and Bessie White — 60th Wedding Anniversary — 1973.

Donald our son was born in December, 1914.

We moved to Elko, B.C. in 1915 where my parents, sister and young brother Tommy lived. Henry had many different kinds of work there — saw mill, bush work, store clerk, and house builder. Marjorie was born in 1919.

In 1926 we moved to Crawford Bay where my brother Alex and sister Janice, who had married Don Broster in Elko, were living. My father and mother followed in 1927. My parents and Alex passed away there.

We purchased 10 acres, which had to be cleared, and planted fruit trees, built a house, kept cows and chickens and had a big garden. Henry got other work, so in spite of hard times, we always managed to make a fair living. Best of all we had many good friends and neighbors.

In 1953, we sold our place and moved to Alberta where our son Don and daughter Marjorie live. The first seven years were spent in Red Deer, the next seven in the Pine Lake District.

In 1967, we came here to our 80 acres. Henry passed away in 1976, at the age of 94 years. Marjorie married Cecil Baldwin and has a family of 4 boys and three girls, I have 19 grandchildren.

Ernest and Ann Mathew Wills

ERNEST and ANN MATHEW WILLS nee DIXON and their eldest son, John Dixon, came to Canada in March, 1924. Their son, Ernest, had come out to Toronto and later Calgary in 1923. The family lived at Baurgh Stud Farm, Wigton, Cumberland, England. As there was no room for expansion there, they decided to come to Canada to better themselves. They drew straws as they had relatives in Australia as well as Canada and Canada won out.



Mr. Wills, Mrs. Wills and John — 1941.



Rilla and John Wills with granddaughter Verla Roxanne age 3 — taken in 1962.

Mr. Wills had a sister, Mrs. Bill Davidson, farming near Olds and it was this farm they first came to. After a bad hail storm in the Olds area in July, the Wills family decided to look for work and a place of their own. They moved to a farm south of Lacombe (the land is now a part of the Experimental Farm) and were hoping to purchase it but the deal fell through. John went to work for John Laing and Ernie for John Morton that first summer.

In 1926, they were on the move again — this time buying the N.E. $\frac{1}{4}$ of 30-38-28 W4th from the Soldier Settlement Board. Mrs. John DeSmets' brother, Joe Mons, was living there. He was decorated war hero from France.

The first winter at Lacombe was a hard one with snow four feet high. It came in September and stayed until the end of May. John worked at the Experimental farm looking after the horses in 1925. The fall of 1926 found him harvesting in Saskatchewan where he remained for the winter.

Soon after coming to Poplar Ridge, John traded a pig for a saddle horse of Percy Lagrou. He named her Nola. She was a lovely show horse and won him many prizes at Edmonton and Calgary and local horse shows. This was the start of the family show horses. The top shorthorn bull sold for \$75.00 and top show horses for \$135.00 at the 1933 Spring Show in Edmonton.

About 1934, the family moved to the Prevo place, north of the No. 11 highway, N.W. $\frac{1}{4}$ 30-38-28 W4, where they farmed until selling to George Coverdale in 1945. Mr. and Mrs. Wills retired to Vancouver where they passed away a few years later.

Ernie married Violet Gourley in 1938. She was a sister of Dick Edgingtons' wife and had two children from a previous marriage. They lived in Red Deer for a year before moving to the Coast. They later moved to Blaine, Washington, where Ernie passed away in September, 1980. They have a son, Donald, who is in the U.S. Armed Forces.

John moved to Ardrossen, now Sherwood Park, where he farmed for four years. He also spent some time dealing with livestock in the States. He was in the Frontiersmen in Edmonton before the war. He joined the 49 Edmonton Regiment in 1940 and went to England in 1941 with a boat load of mules, landing in Liverpool two months later. An injury during an Air Raid in Eastbourn resulted in a transfer to the Army Service Corps at Aldershot before being invalided home in March, 1944. Discharge came eight months later after working at Penhold.

John and Rilla Watt were married in 1940. Rilla had one son, Ken, from a previous marriage. He married Verda Neilson from Spruce View. They have three daughters: Verla, Mylene and Shauna. They live in Innisfail. Ken works for Border Paving. John and Rilla are retired in Spruceview. Both are active with the Old Timers Community Centre. John still judges horses at local fairs and was honored this summer when a North Western Exhibition in Lynden, Washington, asked him to Judge the Heavy Horse classes and ponies.

Johns story of trading a pig for Nola brings to mind another barter story. After the war, Joe and Dode Lowis went to visit John and Rilla where they lived at Lacombe. John had some young registered

Yorkshire boars that he was selling. Dode had an English Riding bridle that she had brought out from England; as John liked the bridle and the Lowises needed the boar a trade was made. A year or so later John came and bought back the boar for \$60.00. John has since lost the bridle.

Wilson, Alvin and Marjorie **by Alvin**

My folks came from Ontario in 1898 and settled in the High River, Gladys District. I was born in that district in 1906 and was raised on the farm, along with two sisters and a brother.



Marjorie and Alvin Wilson.



Ernest Wills on Nola — 1932.

I started my music at an early age. In the early thirties I played with Lem Davis' Orchestra. We travelled through all of Southern Alberta. One summer we played in the Fernie Hall at Gull Lake, Alberta.

In 1935 I moved to Turner Valley and worked in the oil fields. Here I boarded with the Vern Furnalds. Vern was involved in music and had an orchestra in the valley that I joined. We played for dances. Verna, who was still in school went along to the dances and sang with the orchestra. She soon learned to play the sax.

The second World War was declared. In 1942 I

joined the Air Force Band. In 1945 I was discharged, and shortly after I moved to Sylvan Lake with the Furnalds. They had a farm near Prevo which Vern had purchased in 1939. There were no buildings except a garage. We had to build the house and other buildings. It was very hard to do, due to the shortage of materials because of the war. It was hard to get cement, but by fall we had the house partly built. The lumber we had was of different thickness and widths. Vern built an edger to even up the lumber. News soon got around that we had a saw mill. One day Bob Plumb came over with a load of logs to be made into lumber. Vern told him to leave the logs and maybe he could do something with them. Vern had his welder and lathe so within the year he did build a mill that would saw lumber.

When we first moved to the farm, Vern decided to build down from the road where there was a stand of trees, so we began clearing an area for the house. Out of the bush came a man carrying a gun, which really startled us. However, we soon shook hands and he wished us well in the new neighbourhood. This gun toting fellow was George Coverdale, who became a good friend and great neighbor.

All the neighbors used wood for fuel, so a dozen or more would get together and saw a year's supply. Later when the power came, we all got together and worked on the line. Haying time was another big work bee and the hay was put up in a short time.

We had no phone, so we decided to run a wire from Vern's to the neighbors, Hugo Selestroms and

Coverdales. Coverdales conveyed all the messages for some time, until we could get on the regular line.

There were card parties at Norma School. Everyone had great times there, and we got acquainted with everyone in the district in that way.

In later years I curled with Norman Pickering, Norman and Phylis Ammeter. We took in the bonspiels, which were great fun.

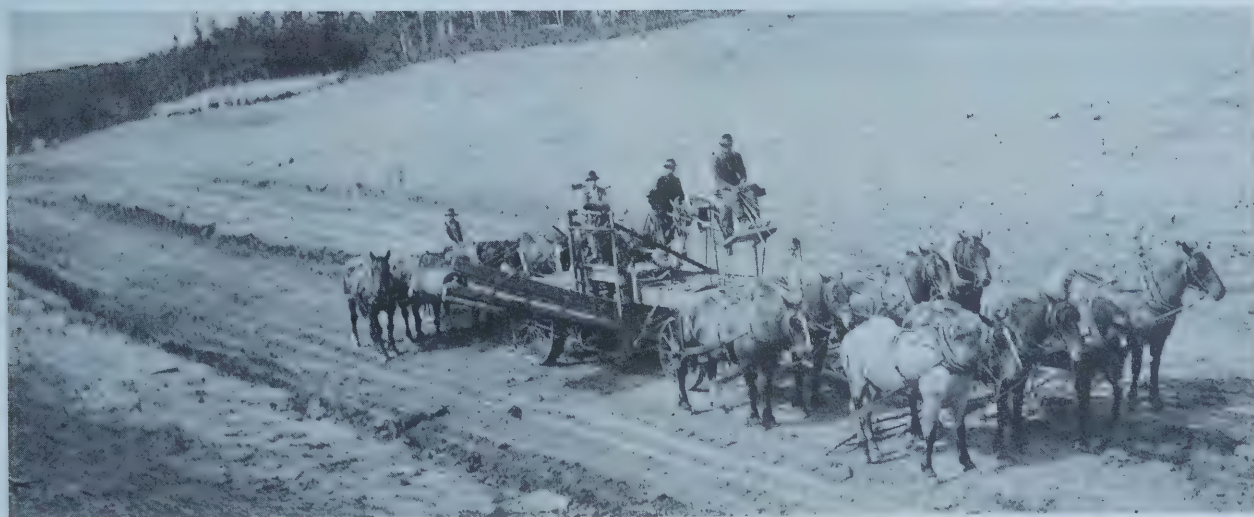
At a party I met the Bahlers. Flora told me she played the piano and her brother Lewis played the sax. Lewis lived near Red Deer. Before long we got together and organized a dance band. "Longacres Orchestra". We played together for many years and at many dances, also for the "Martin School of Dancing" Reviews.

June 1st, 1968 I married Marjorie Gates, a sister-in-law of Verns. I had known her for many years. Marj lost her husband in 1967. She has four boys, Dorlan, Wesley, Gary and Clark. They are all married with families. We were married at Delburne by a former minister and friend of the Gates family. The Furnalds had a lovely reception for us. Mary Selstrom made and decorated our wedding cake. We went to the coast for a week and now reside in Claresholm.

Marj worked at Porcupine Hills Lodge until her retirement in April 1980. I worked at the Lodge and Henson Motors. I'm still playing the sax with a band, "Scotts' Orchestra".

We will never forget the nice folks in the Norma District; the parties and good times. At a party for us at Gauklers' I was given a purse of money and a set of lovely plaques from the orchestra gang.

District Pictures



Building C.N.R. line across Peter Prevo homestead in 1911. SW¼ 1-39-1-W5th.



Breaking in the early 1920's.



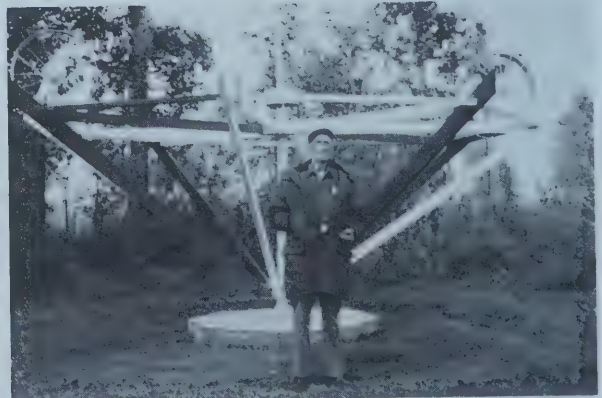
Early Settlers of Norma.



Young people of Norma in the early 1900's.



John and Bernard Sjare in the harvest field.



Vern Furnald and his merry-go-round.



Lloyd Herman threshing machine.



Moise Vasseur, Julia, John and Adelbert Tanche with muskrat pelts in 1911.



Centennial Bedspread handmade with relatives names by Bessie White.



Hugo Selstrom hauling lumber in 1928.



Kenneth and Leila Arlint — 1939 a common mode of travel in Saskatchewan.



Mary, Elmer and Bernard Sjare going to school.



Molly and John Lindman. Horses trained to stand on Kegs.



Bob Herder with team Lady and Beauty, 1969.



Haying on Burnt Lake.



Centennial Holiday Group — 1967. Back L. to R.: Doffy and Dora Bahler, Joe Gaukler, Germaine Maga, Wilton Mayberry, Lewis Longacre, Ada and Doc Garrison, Roy Bahler, Allan Cody. Centre: Cleo Longacre, Mary Young, Ida Cody. Kneeling: Clara Maybery, Vera Gaukler, Flora Bahler, Jean Hein.



Sideboard made by Joshua Thompson, grandfather of Ella Herder — all inlaid wood. Now in Brewster Museum, Victoria, B.C.



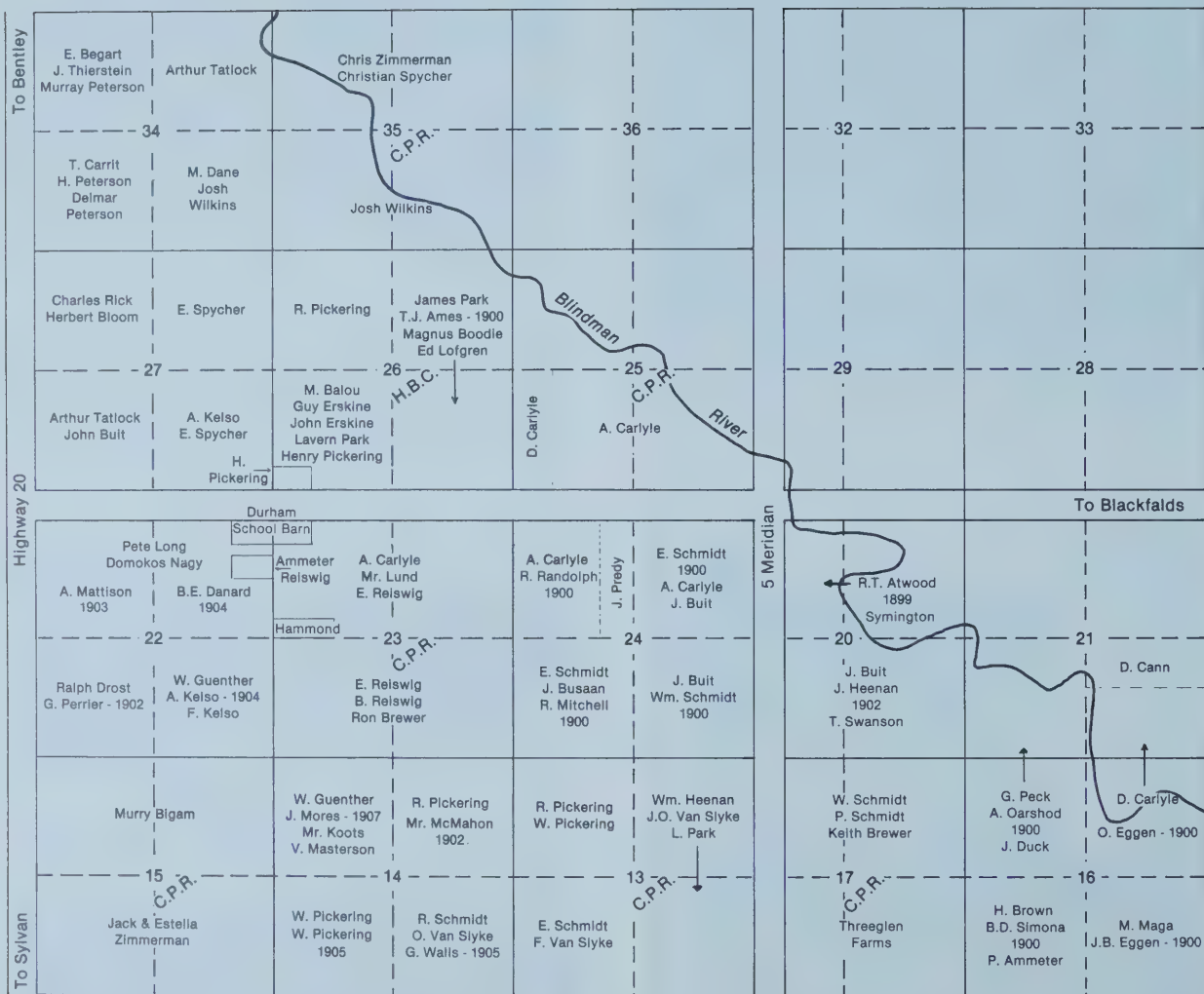
Dorothy Walters, Bridal Shower at Floyd Van Slykes. Back row L. to R.: Mrs. Ed. Wigmore, Louis Pickering, Elizabeth Pickering, Germaine Maga, Flora Bahler, Ruth Van Slyke, Lyla Pickering, Dorothy Carlyle, Ruth Schmidt, Betty Van Slyke, Carol Schmidt, Louise Maga, Lisa Ammeter, Heather Ironside, Connie Schmidt, Margaret Smith, Agnes Schmidt, Dorothy Walter, Margaret Long, Eileen Ironside, child on Blanket, Reed Smith, small girl Ellen Walter.



March 1945 — Wards moving from Lemoines place at Norma to Lunds, east of Red Deer. Henry Ward, Bernard Schenk, George Coverdale, Murel Ramsey, Charlie Schenk and Ben Reising.



"Editor of the Future" Tyler Clark oversees final selection of photographs for history book. Pictured with Grandmother, Vera Gaukler, editor of Norma District.



PART - DURHAM DISTRICT NO. 3907

Durham

Introduction — The Durham School District

The Blindman River, with vegetation covering its banks as it slowly wound its way along, was one of the main attractions for our early settlers. Here was water until wells were dug. Along its course, as well as around the two big lakes, Sylvan and Gull, wild life such as bear, deer, rabbits, geese, ducks, and grouse were plentiful for food. There were trees for shelter and an abundance of wild fruit such as saskatoons, currants, and raspberries. All of this along with a rich black soil resulted in settlement as early as 1900, even though it was many miles from a large town or railroad.

Soon small towns began with a post office, saw mills were started, and the railroad came. The road

from the east on to Rocky Mountain House came through this area. Homesteaders mention, too, the vast areas of tiger lilies and shooting stars adding to the beauty of the landscape. Some also say the trees and bush were smaller than now.

The rich soil, coupled with the required rain, helped the settlers to prosper. As more families arrived and multiplied, schools were built. Durham being one built to fill in the gap between Aspelund and Carrit. The schools were also used for churches which were built later.

The people learned early that to survive they must be good neighbors. Roads, landscape, and names have greatly changed over the years, but the good neighbor practice still remains.



View of the Blindman Valley from Ironside's hill as the Riis family first saw it, except there were more trees and bush in 1912.

Durham Cattle Brands

Archie Carlyle — on L. Hip

Domy Nagy — on L. Rib

Josh Wilkins — on L.H.

Murray Peterson — on L.H.

Ralph Tatlock — on R. Rib

Jim Park — on L.R., United Kingdom, his father's

Ernie Spycher — on R.R.

Bill Guenther — on L.H.

N7

DN

JX

MP

A4

UK9

ES

NN

Durham School

Chris Riis Sr., Harry Pickering, and Emil Schmidt (then a bachelor), were the first trustees of the Durham School. Bob Pickering Sr. was the secretary. Many stormy battles were to be fought and won before getting the school started.

Much discussion had taken place in the area regarding the location and need of the school. A

school was needed to fill the gap between the then existing schools, Aspelund, Norma, and Carrit. A general meeting was held at one of the farm homes where the first trustees were elected and the secretary was appointed. It was then necessary to:

1. Borrow money by issuing debentures.
2. Establish a tax levy on the land. (no grants came from the government then)
3. Get permission from the Dep't of Education to build the school.
4. Decide the boundaries.
5. Decide where to locate the school.

Guy Erskine, who had three school-age children, donated two acres for the school an E. M. Reiswig donated two acres for the barn. This is why the school was on one side of the road allowance and the barn on the other.

Meetings took place with bordering districts, and boundaries were established. With tax levies on the people and loans, approximately \$3000 was raised. The loans came from Chris Zimmerman and Peter Lowe, and others I cannot now recall. Volunteer labor was secured, and the land, which was all bush at that time, was cleared and a full cement basement was put in.

Everything looked rosy, but there was a "hitch". The Dep't of Education insisted that all monies be



Opening Durham School, 1920. Porch, L. to R.: A. R. Gibson, School Inspector, Chris Zimmerman, Chris Riis, Chairman of Board, Daniels, Bob Pickering, Secretary-Treasurer of Board, Gus Wall, E. K. Wright, teacher, Albert Southall, Rev. Hughes, Murray Bigam. First Row, L. to R.: Mrs. Chris Riis, Mrs. Will Pickering, Bob Pickering, Emmanuel Reiswig, Chris Zimmerman, Tatlock holding Vere, Spycher, Henry Pickering, Arthur Pickering, Elsie Zimmerman, ?, Bill Pickering, John Pickering, Malcolm Dane, Vere Tatlock, Faye Tatlock, Spycher, Spycher. Second Row, L. to R.: Ruth Lofgren, Cora Dane, Hulda Reiswig, Agnes Lofgren, Inger Riis, Bertha Reiswig, Sadie Reiswig, Emma Lofgren, Martha Riis, Chris Riis Jr., Andrew Erskine, Archie Erskine, Bernell Tatlock, Henry Lofgren, Willie Lofgren. Third Row, L. to R.: Mrs. Dane, Mr. Dane, ?, ?, Bennie Reiswig, Will Pickering, Mrs. Harry Pickering, Mrs. Jack Zimmerman, Mrs. Reiter, Mr. Reiter.

Third meeting of Durham School Board

A Special Board & Ratepayer meeting held on
Monday June 7th 1920 2pm at M. Rüs's house.

Present

E. Rüs. Chairman

J. E. Schmidt Trustee.

H. Pickering.

& ten other ratepayers

It was agreed to build a school house 24 x 36.

It was agreed to put in a full basement.

It was agreed to allow 5 per cent rebate on current taxes
if paid within one month from issue of tax notices.

Proposed by H. Pickering seconded by E. J. Schmidt. Carried

The Durham S.D. No 3907 of the Province of Alberta.

Whereas it is necessary & desirable that the sum
three thousand dollars should be borrowed on the
security of The Durham S.D. 3907 of the province
of Alberta for the purpose of building a new school
house repayable to bearer in ten equal consecutive
annual instalments with interest at not more than
eight per centum per annum.

Now therefore the Board of Trustees of the said District Council
as follows

- (1) That the necessary proceedings be taken under the S.D. Ordinance to
obtain sanction of Board of Public Utility Comm: of Alta to the said loan.
 - 2 That upon the B. of P. Utility Comm: authorizing in writing the
Board of Trustees to borrow the said sum of \$3000 dollar or any less
sum, pursuant to the said Ordinance, debentures of the said Dist:
be issued for such amount as is so authorized: payable to
bearer in ten equal consecutive annual instalments with int:
at not more than eight per centum per annum payable annually
& said debentures shall be executed by Chairman & Treas: of the Board
- Now passed this 7th day of June a.d. 1920

H. Pickering
Secy

E. Rüs
Chairman

sent to Edmonton. Relations with the “bureaucracy” became strained and the storm started. In spite of this however, the Board proceeded further with their building plans. A building contractor was hired and lumber was hauled to the building site. More letters were sent to Edmonton, but they still refused to release the money. The Board went ahead regardless, completing the school building before the cold weather set in, in October or November. The battle between Board and Bureaucracy was still raging, but to no avail. The Board must have the money to pay the bills, which, after all was their money. Besides they wanted to open the school. Even a teacher had been hired. Chris Riis was so riled up that he decided to fight fire with fire. He phoned the School Inspector, A. R. Gibson, informing him of their difficulties. “Now,” he said, “there is a provincial election in the

near future. I’m going to hand all of this correspondence between the Department and the Board over to the opposition party.” Without further adieu Gibson phoned Edmonton relaying the message. Withing a very short time the money was released.

The final finishing touches were added and the school was made ready to open in January of 1921.

Submitted by Chris Riis Jr.



Durham School.



Class of 1939. Front Row: Robert Pickering, Billy Lyons, Wilma Wyatt, Shirley Bigam. Second Row: Roger Wyatt, Norm Pickering, Laura Schmidt. Third Row: Ray Schmidt, Doris Zimmerman, Joyce Bigam, Leonard Lofgren. Back Row: Frank Wyatt, Hugh Zimmerman, Freda Spycher.



Durham School Class, 1935. Chester Soderburg, Norman Pickering, Roger Wyatt, Doris Zimmerman, Joyce Bigam, Raymond Schmidt, Leonard Lofgren, Rank Wyatt, Bud Zimmerman, Freda Spycher, Warren Zimmerman, Ernest Spycher, Elsie Zimmerman, Irene Stone.



Class of '36-'37. Back Row: Frank Wyatt, Freda Spycher. Third Row: Leonard Lofgren, Hugh Zimmerman, Joyce Bigam, Raymond Schmidt. Second Row: Norman Pickering, Chester (Jensen) Soderburg, Laura Schmidt, Roger Wyatt. First Row: Ralph Tatlock, Shirley Bigam.

Hanna, Sheila

Teacher at Durham School September 1936 — June 1940

I will always have a tender spot in my heart for the former Durham S.D. No.3907, for it was there my teaching career began. The school board consisted of three trustees: Mr. Douglas Wyatt (chairman), Mr. Murray Bigam, and Mr. Emil Schmidt (secretary-treasurer).

From the very beginning I felt very fortunate — not only was the district well-off financially (paid a

The school building itself had a full basement which provided a play area in bad weather but also housed the coal and wood furnace. This heating system was a great comfort as the school room floor was warm and the heat fairly evenly distributed. Even though the large windows made the lighting excellent, during the short days of December it used

Recalling that incident brings to mind another, only this time it involved, not Frank, but his little sister, Wilma. When a car would drive up to the school, we could always hear it but could not see it. When Wilma was in grade one, a car drove in and stopped. Some member of the class whispered “Nurse!” and pronto, Wilma’s breakfast gushed like a fountain all over her desk. Even though the class co-operated and did not speculate again as to who the visitor was, every time the uniformed public health nurse appeared inside, poor Wilma went through the same nervous reaction to needles.

I boarded for the first few months with the Tat-

1917	APRIL	1917	APRIL
9 Mon.	Sorted various sets.		Tue.
10 Tue.	1 hen hatched 12 chicks.		Wed.
11 Wed.			1 with 7 chicks 1 with 6 (13)
12 Thu.	Bob hatched up the Cocks.		2 more hatched sets.
13 Fri.	Set 1 hen.		9 Thu.
14 Sat.	Lost 1 little chick.		(Down)
15 Sun.	Sally comes in (1917)		1 still call (from Beauty)
16 Mon.	Will come home.		10 Fri.
	Bob moved to heart.		Bob. went looking for B.S.
			Lost 1 little chick
			1 Sat.
			Set 1 hen.
			2 Sun.
			3 Mon.
			4 Tue.
			2 hens hatched out.

Country schools were noted for their social activities and Durham was no exception. A family picnic held on or near the last day of school always involved a good ball game. The older Pickering and Spycher boys were particularly adept at baseball and were a welcome addition to the school children's teams on that day. Whist parties and box socials were held to raise money for the treats at the annual Christmas concert. Though we were somewhat hampered by our small numbers, we were able to stage good programs. One particular program "hit" that I recall was a pantomime called "Cat Pie". The Bigam girls, Joyce and Shirley, added variation by singing or by playing selections on the piano. Mr. Bob Pickering Sr. was always a capable master of ceremonies and sometimes contributed a vocal solo as well.

I resigned from the Red Deer School Division in June, 1940 and accepted a teaching position in the Red Deer Public S.D. No.104. There I taught for three years. I married Neil Jarvin of Sylvan Lake who had enlisted in the R.C.A.F. After the war we took up residence in Sylvan Lake where we still reside.

Occasionally I see some of my former students and regret to report that two have passed away: Shirley Bigam, and Laura (Schmidt) Van Slyke.

SUCCESSORS TO ARCHAMBAULT BROS.

ACCOUNT NO.

LETTER FOLIO

SYLVAN LAKE, ALTA. 191/

SOLD TO

ACCOUNTS RENDERED MONTHLY

ACCOUNTS DUE WHEN REMPAID

INTEREST AT 10 PER CENT. PER ANNUM WILL BE CHARGED ON OVERDUE ACCOUNTS

DATE	ARTICLES	FOLIO	CREDIT AMOUNT	DEBIT AMOUNT	TOTAL
11	5 1/2 dz. eggs.		2 20		
"	18. Hensgar 60 100 lb Syrup 75			1 35	
"	Shirley			1 00	
"	100 lb		— 35		
13	12 lb butter 4.20		4 20		
"	1 lb. Blankett, 1.75 currency 90 2 lb Cakes 50 1/2			3 20	
25	7 lb Cakes		2 40		
"	2 lbs 40 5 y print 90 2 lb butter 50 2 lb Cakes 50			3 50	
"	2 lb (pink) wash 15 1/2 lb 2.25			3 40	
28	on. Given to Heepersack		1 35		
	credit to W Heepersack				

Our Roll of Honour



Ernest Spycher



Domokos (Domy) Nagy, age 21, Romanian Cavalry, 1925.



Godfrey Spycher, January, 1941.



Gnr. G. A. Hunter, August, 1945.



The Golden Star Victory Club

During the years of the second world war this club was organized at a meeting at the home of Jessy Riis, with the aim of helping war victims and those serving in the forces. The membership grew even though attendance varied at the meetings. Even though most of the members had young children, this group of women were very active with their children attending as well.



The Golden Star Victory Club: Doris and Stella Zimmerman, Elizabeth Pickering, Sara Carlyle and Nancy, Dorothy Carlyle, Sue Park, Louise Pickering and Wilson. (The two little girls not known.) Jessy Riis and Rilla Wills not there. 1944.

Quilts were set up and completed in the old Durham School. Clothing was made and sent overseas, as well as knitted wear such as socks, mitts, and sweaters. Some young members learned to sew and knit as a result.

Money was raised mainly by bake sales at Sylvan Lake and raffles.

When the war ended in 1945 the club was disbanded.

One member remembers a very embarrassing day when Sylvan Lare W. I. very kindly invited the club to an afternoon tea. It was a busy time on the farm, especially during war time when help was hard to find. Because of this, plus other activities, only one member remembered the invitation, on that day. She frantically phoned but only found about five in. These five arrived at the tea to find the W.I. had gone to a lot of work preparing for about twenty-five. They lamely tried to explain and apologize, but still remember their embarrassment.

Family Histories

Roland and Irene Ammeter

Irene was born in Bentley Septmeber 11, 1940, daughter of Perry and Janetta Mickey. She took her schooling in Bowden.



Great-grandparents Wm. and Dolly Schmidt, Joe, Chris and Terri Reiswig.

In December, 1959, she married Lyle Reiswig and moved to the Durham district. They had three children; Terri, born November 11, 1960; Chris, born October 11, 1962 and Joe, born September 3, 1963.

They farmed with Lyle's father, Ben Reiswig until 1963, when the farm was sold, then had a trucking company which started out as general trucking then in 1965, specialized in oilfield hauling.

They were divorced in 1974.

On May 17, 1975, Irene married Roland Ammeter. They continued to live in the Durham district.

Terri will graduate as a registered nurse from the Royal Alexandria Hospital, Edmonton in June, 1981. Chris graduated from the Bentley High School in 1980. Joe will graduate from the Bentley High School in June 1981.

Roland was born in Nelson, B.C., son of Peter and Freda Ammeter. They moved to the Poplar Ridge district in 1932. Roland was six weeks old. In 1935 they moved to the Marianne district. He took some of



Wedding Day, May 17, 1975. Phylis Ammeter, Irene and Rolliie Ammeter, Norman Ammeter.

his schooling there. In 1946 they moved to the Prevo district where he went to school at Aspelund and Red Deer. He also went to Olds Agricultural school for one year.

Upon leaving school, he worked in the oilfield with seigsmic. He worked in Libya from 1957 to 1961. While there he was able to do extensive traveling in Europe and Asia. He returned in 1961 and began working in the construction trade and became a carpenter. From 1970 to 1974 he owned and operated a truck with which he hauled mobile homes.

After he and Irene were married in 1975 he went back to the construction trade.

Murray Bigam Family

Murray Bigam, the youngest of the Bigam family, arrived here when he was five years old. His parents settled close to Sylvan Lake on the north side. Here he spent a good share of his time fishing, and skating in the winter. Many times he and Hazel were on dangerous ice having to jump the cracks. Often they would skate over to the town and come home in the moonlight.



Grandpa and Grandma Bigam, Hazel Bigam, Minnie Johnson, George Bigam (about 1920).

He took his grade school at Carrit, walking three miles. In the cold weather he and Hazel would stop in at Judd Carrit's where there was always a nice warm fire. He attended high school at Red Deer. Murray like to sing, which he often did at concerts and social programs. The Rainy Creek district was active in church work and young people's groups.

Murray "joined up" in the first world war and went overseas but never saw action. When his battalion left for France he was in hospital with measles. Fortunately the war soon ended and he came home.

After returning he bought the N $\frac{1}{2}$ -15-39-1-W5 and started to clear land for farming. His brother

Andrew lived across the road so I think he managed to be there at meal time quite often. For batching he had a little shack and slept in the granary. Sid Thompson, who often helped him, often talks about those days. I think they were pretty grim.

Murray had a buckskin saddle horse which was well known. Later he had Tony, a bay, and he made many trips north to the Stephenson farm. One evening when he was ready to leave his horse was missing. He never really found out for sure, but a very suspicious person shearing sheep for Walter Stephenson could never keep a straight face; and a "Mr. Ostrum", better known as Jack, was blamed for turning the horse loose. Needless to say Murray walked home. The result of many trips north was that Murray Bigam married Laura Stephenson February 18, 1925 at the home of Mr. Ida Stephenson. On their honeymoon they went to Lacombe by horses and sleigh, and to Calgary by train returning to Murray's farm.

Murray and Laura had five children, two deceased, and the three surviving are Joyce, Lawrence, and Larry. Joyce took her schooling at Durham and Bentley. She married Mike Shram of Thorsby, now living in Lethbridge. They have three children, Kendall, Rick, and Laural Dean. Joyce has recently purchased a cabin on the north shore of Sylvan Lake in Sunnyside Pentecostal Camp Grounds which many years ago was part of the Bigam homestead. Lawrence began school at Durham, then to Bentley, Carrit, and back to Bentley to finish. He married Shirley Jensen of Edmonton. They have three children, Connie, Terry and Linda, and live on the north shore of Sylvan Lake, south of the Pentecostal Camp, on land which was also Bigam property. Larry rode the bus to Bentley where he took all his schooling. He married Beverly Webb from Victoria and they live in Red Deer. They have three children, Murray, Kimberly, and Shelly.

Murray, during his life time, served the community in many ways. He was on the Durham School



A picnic in the 20's. Mr. and Mrs. Young, Mr. and Mrs. Bigam, Mrs. Castles, Hazel, Laura, Edith, Andrew, Grandma Stephenson, Grandma Dane, Mr. Castels.



The Bigam family and grandchildren.

Board for many years, the Bentley Pentecostal Church Board, and during the last years of his life served as Honorary Church Board Member. During the second world war he served his country in the Veteran's Guard. These men guarded war prisoners in different parts of western Canada. After the war Murray continued farming until his death in November, 1965. Laura lived on at the farm among her many friends, renting the land to a neighbor until 1979 when she moved to Red Deer.

Andrew Boodie

Andrew Boodie was one of twelve children born to John and Margaret Boodie in Sweden. In 1883 the family immigrated to Minnesota, U.S.A. on a boat named "City of Rome". In the year 1902 they came to Canada filing on a homestead west of Blackfalds, now owned by Cyril Ironside. They also owned the land later known as the Lofgren farm, SE¼-26-39-1-W5. They brought with them 12 cows, horses, and machinery.

They lived off the cows and wild meat while clearing the land for farming. Wild life, including bears, was plentiful then. Mabel and Magnus, two of Andrew's children, recall that their father and two of his brothers caught about 55 bears during that period. One day Andrew and his brother, Ole, were checking the bear traps near Gull Lake when they saw a bear caught in a trap — they thought! They shot with their muzzle loader only to learn that there were two bears, and the one shot at was not in the trap. The wounded bear took after them. They were where Aspen Beach now is, and Ole was on crutches because of a broken leg. Magnus, even though quite young, still remembers how they ran to beat the wounded bear to the boat. It even ran out in the water after the boat.

Their parents walked 15 miles across country on a

trail cut through bush to Lacombe for groceries, packing a gun for protection from wild animals.

The Boodies bought the first car in that district in the early 1900's. It was a Ford steered by a stick, no steering wheel.

Andrew married Inga Larsen in 1906. They raised six children on the homestead. His father John died in 1918, and his mother, Margaret, in 1941. Inga died in 1934 and Andrew in 1947.

John and Jean Buit and Family

We moved into the area as newlyweds in 1951, to the farm vacated by Percy Lowe. John had emigrated from Holland three years previously and worked for his uncle George Stolte.

My parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. J. TenHove had arrived from Holland in 1929 on their honeymoon. I was born in Lacombe. They farmed in the Aspelund District where my two brothers, one sister and myself attended school, three and one half miles away. Like everyone else at that time, the trip was made by every conveyance imaginable. More often than not, however it was on foot. Many saddle horses were used, and I often think of the races around the barn and school.

We were married April 18, 1951, on what turned out to be a very stormy day, weather-wise. Many people tell us they will never forget our wedding day, due to the hair-raising experiences they had getting home from the church. A full blown blizzard was raging and snowplows were back in action.

We began farming with six cows, which soon became more, and more, and — more, until we had over one hundred; you know how it is with milk cows. Mixed farming was our daily work for many years, but we gradually went exclusively into dairying. Our four sons have together taken over the dairy business.

In 1962 we moved to the SE 24-39-1-W5, buying from Will Schmidt who, with his brother, had homesteaded this land. This is a beautiful spot on the rim of the Blindman Valley. Our neighbours were all very community conscious, and we soon became involved as well, including the F. U. A., later to become Unifarm, and we still are. Everyone seemed to belong, and we developed a strong feeling of support for our farm group.

The Lord has greatly blessed our work, and us with health and happiness. We were also blessed with seven healthy children; one tragedy was when we lost our youngest son, Walter, at the age of nine, in 1972 in a farm accident. Our eldest daughter Sharyn and her husband Bob Lodewyk, and three children live in Red Deer. Daughter Judy and her husband and son Jeremy have a dairy west of Rimbey. Our four sons

farming together, Harvey and Dorothy (Leenstra) and Kenton, Marvin and Marianne (Stad) and Brandi, Lawrence, and Russ live on the home place and across the road. John and I have built a new home west of the old Durham School where we have a panoramic view of the Blindman Valley to the east. Here we plan to retire, enjoy our grandchildren, and this community which we are happy to be part of.

by Jean Biut

John and Tena Busaan

John and Tena left their home in Friesland, Holland in 1951. With their three children, Wilma, John and Dorothy, they came from a city home to farm in Canada in the Blindman Valley. They worked for the Carlyle brothers, and later for Archie Carlyle for nineteen years. In 1963 they bought the Emil Schmidt home quarter and began to farm for themselves.



From R.-L.: John, Tena, Wilma, Dorothy, John Busaan Sr. with their first car, 1951.

After John's death in 1970 Tena sold the farm to her son, John and moved to a home on the J. Brouwer farm for over seven years until she moved to the H. Sebanga farm where she still lives.

Tena and John made every effort to become Canadians from the beginning. John even discouraged signs of being Dutch such as wooden shoes outside the door. Archie became their English instructor, enabling Tena to master the language much quicker.

They both became active in their community as well as in their own church, and were active farm union workers. Tena has been treasurer of the farm Women's organization for thirteen years.

John and Wilma Busaan Jr.

John was born in Friesland, Holland on September 10, 1945. He came by boat to Canada with his

parents in May of 1951. They lived in Bob Carlyle's yard, later moving to a house at Archie Carlyle's where his father was employed.

He took his schooling in Bentley. Having had Mr. Predy as his teacher, John, under his influence, decided to pursue a teaching career in Math. He taught for two years at Alix. He and Wilma Brouwer were married at this time.

Wilma was the second of Clarence and Hilda Brouwer's five daughters. She attended the Woodnook Christian School until grade eight, finishing her high school at Bentley. During part of her grade one year she rode to school in Siebenga's horse and cart; until one day the horse walked into the ditch and expired. That was the end of that novel transportation. Wilma attended Royal Alexander School of Nursing, and, after three years of training, she married John in 1968.

Within a year Jody was born but that did not hinder their plans to emigrate to New Zealand, where they lived until May of 1970. Due to difficulty in "making ends meet", and illness in the family, they returned to Canada. It amazed them how New Zealanders could survive on their salary. John's salary was approximately half of that received in Canada and the cost of living was not significantly less. One enjoyable aspect of their New Zealand life was owning a rebuilt 1940 Ford with a four cylinder motor, a top speed of forty miles per hour, and used forty miles per gallon. That was their pride and joy and they wish now that they had brought it back with them.

On their return they lived at Bentley where John taught Junior High School. They moved to his father's farm in March, 1971, when John farmed and taught school. This farm, SW ¼ 24-39-1-W5, was the former Emil Schmidt farm. In March of 1976 the big decision to go it alone farming was made. It has been an enjoyable struggle ever since. They have two boys and two girls: Jody, Jon, Lorin Jay, and Jaclyn.

The family are active in their Christian Reform Church and are active with Young People's Rallies and camp where many a romance blossomed.

Mrs. Dick Cameron (Doris Zimmermann)

The youngest of four children, I was born July 23, 1927, in the Bentley hospital. Dr. W. Henry attended my mother. Being so young I had no awareness of the depression years that soon followed. My brother, Bud, was my constant playmate and we had little difficulty in finding something to do. As we grew older we received our share of the chores, carrying wood being the first I remember having to do. Many summers were spent helping Bud herd the

cows, and finally, the great day dawned. Dad took me with Warren and Bud to help with the haying at Burnt Lake. The novelty soon wore off but I earned my "spot", driving the team on the stacker.

We all learned to ride, and my first horse was a gentle blue roan, Mabel. She eventually carried me off to Durham school, 1¾ miles north of our home. Miss Mary Holten was my first teacher and for the nine years spent at Durham, Joyce Bigam and I were the only two in our grade. There are many happy memories of those years, especially ones of the Christmas concerts and the yearend picnics. Also the ballgames against other schools that ended with "three cheers for the winner" and a peanut scramble for everyone.

One memorable day the entire school was loaded into the back of a truck and we were off to see "The Wizard of Oz". My first train-ride was also with the school. The Durham classes joined several others at the Sylvan Lake depot and went to Edmonton where we saw King George VI and Queen Elizabeth in their procession down Kingsway Avenue.



Dick and Doris Cameron, 1976.



King and Queen's Visit, June 2, 1939, U. of A. Campus. Front Row: Robert Pickering, Shirley Bigam, Joyce Bigam, Ray Schmidt, Norm Pickering. Second Row: Doris Zimmerman, Laura Schmidt, Freda Spycher, Frank Wyatt, Hugh Zimmerman, Miss Hanna. Back Row: Mrs. Pickering, Mrs. Rockwell.

I attended Sylvan Lake High School, boarding in town during the winter months. The war ended the summer before my final year and the local servicemen were returning home. It was then I met my future husband — Dick Cameron. He had served in the R.C.A.F. — radar section, stationed in England. Dick was the youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Cameron, who owned the bake-shop and Heather Lunch in Sylvan Lake.

We were married on September 2, 1947. Dick was in his second year of Chemistry at the U. of A.



Laurie Cameron.



Alan and Tim Cameron.

Our first child, William John, was born February 18, 1949, the year Dick graduated. Due to the large number of graduates that year it was difficult to find work immediately. We were fortunate that Dick was soon employed with a seismic crew for Heiland Exploration. In the fall of 1950 Dick went with Dowell of Canada, an oil-well servicing company. It meant moving to different stations and we lived at various times in Edmonton, Calgary, Stettler, Swift Current, and Kindersley, Saskatchewan. Our first daughter, Jean Christina, was born in Edmonton, June 29, 1951. Laurie May was born October 9, 1954 in Kindersley, Sask. and Alan Richard on October 21, 1955 in Edmonton. Timothy James was born May 7, 1957 in Edmonton.

Bill is a member of the Edmonton City Police. He married Shirley Middlebrough in 1975 and they reside on an acreage west of Stony Plain. They have two children, Cameron Douglas, 11, (stepson) and Khirsten Elizabeth, born July 7, 1979. Jean graduated from the U. of A. in 1973 with a degree in Education. Since then she has taught school in Red Deer. She is the present Superintendent of Sunday School at the Memorial Presbyterian Church, Sylvan Lake. She spends many a Sunday visiting her grandmother at the farm where I grew up. Laurie studied commercial art for three years at the Alberta College of Art, Calgary, then received her diploma in photography from N.A.I.T. She is presently with the Audio-Visual Media Centre at the U. of A., Faculty of Education, as the supervisor of photography and graphic arts. Alan's interest in sports led to Junior A hockey with the New Westminster Bruins. In 1975 he was drafted by the Detroit Red Wings. On June 5, 1976 he married Debbie Pace and they have a daughter, Jillian Marie, born May 19, 1979. At present Alan is with the Winnipeg Jets but the family spend the summers at their home in Edmonton. Tim is the assistant manager of the North Star Sporting Goods store in Edmonton. In the past he has coached community hockey and is now coaching in the "AA" league.

Dick retired from Dowell in 1977, after 27 years. He was then employed by Nowsco, another oil well service company, to organize and manage a training centre. The complex was built in Calgary where we have resided since the spring of 1979.

Archie Carlyle Family

Archie was born in Chesterville, Ontario and came west with his parents and five brothers and sisters when one year old. They settled in the Edmonton district where Archie received his education at the Poplar Lake School and Edmonton city schools. His father worked with the Department of Agricul-

ture and valued a good education. This he gave all his children, but the rest was up to them.

In 1936 he joined his brother Bob in a farming venture on land adjoining the Blindman River in the Aspelund District. Farming was very different at that time. A number of horses and a few pieces of machinery, and you were in business, but you had to be willing to work long days with few frills. It took time to harness and feed all the horses to have them ready to do a days work.

Horses were also their only means of transportation. They hauled pigs to the Bentley market in the wagon or sleigh as the road dictated. If going to the neighbors they rode horseback. The time came when they did acquire a second hand car which they shared even after they were married and raising their own families.

Money was practically non-existent at that time. That first summer Archie had the misfortune to plow under his work boots, so went bare foot the rest of the summer. This to him did not present much of a problem, as his work, good times, and his friends were always more important than outward appearance. The rumor is that a neighbor who had a car would take Archie to Blackfields occasionally, but, not wishing to be seen with one dressed so unbecomingly, would drop him off outside the town limits. However this never bothered Archie. On one such trip Archie came out barefoot. On being sent back to get some shoes, he came back with one shoe and one rubber boot on his feet, these being all he could find. Having a short blocky figure his overalls usually had several rolls on the legs, and suspenders were slightly long which were made to fit the purpose by using a twine belt and nails to shorten the suspenders. Anything a farmer would need was to be found in the pockets of this outfit. He was a hard worker and always in a hurry. If a wagon had to be moved it was quicker to pull it himself if the distance was right.

Archie married Sara Thierstein (nee Heenan) in 1938 in Bentley. Sara was able to accept Archie as he was, and, together they made a good life for them and their family. Sara was born at Sylvan Lake and lived all her life in the Aspelund and Durham districts. Her father, Mr. W. Heenan homesteaded in the former Tony Swanson place, 1902, then traded it for a store business in Sylvan Lake, where he was married and Sara was born. Later land was purchased just south of his old homestead which is now owned by Lavern Park. Sara was an only child and, being a long way from any school, took all her education at the Convent in Red Deer. It was a long way to Red Deer by sleigh or buggy so she did not get home very often for the first few years. There were some lonely times but her education included music, hand work, and languages,



Archie Carlyle family — Archie, Sara, Linda, David, Nancy and Donna.

as well as living with other girls. Her numerous skills in hand work and home making still show the results of this training.

They have four children; Donna Sugget, a nurse who married Dean Sugget and lives in Edmonton; David, a teacher who married Pat Hays of Vancouver, and now farms with his father; Nancy who married Richard Bailey of Edmonton, they are both Social Workers and live in Toronto; and Linda, an Elementary Teacher, who married Terry Morgan and now lives just North of Sylvan Lake. There are ten grandchildren.

In 1947 Archie and Sara bought the Riis farm and moved on to it the following year. It is still the family farm.

They were members of the Rainy Creek United Church until it closed, when they transferred to the Bentley United Church. They have also been members of the Blindman Unifarm group for many years with Sara holding the office of secretary for years. Archie was on the Board of the Lacombe School Division for seven years. Prior to this he had served on the Aspelund School Board, and later on the Durham School Board. He served on the Aspelund Mutual Telephone Co. being president for 25 years. At that time the members had to repair the telephone lines and replace poles. After a storm it wasn't unusual for many men to turn out to help repair the damage and restore service. The women were always happy to have the lines back in service and be in touch with their neighbors again.

Archie has always been interested in cattle and enjoys working with them — in fact the family sometimes think they are his first love. Any time he goes away for a few days he phones home to inquire first

about the cattle, even before inquiring about the family.

Archie and Sara always had room and time for others. Two girls from the Northwest Territories, Jeannie and Barbara Blanchard, became their foster daughters and still are considered part of the family. Also several university girls received first hand agricultural training and experience at the Carlyle farm.

Archie and Sara built a new energy conserving house in 1980, selling the other house to Jeannie and her husband, Stan Anderson. They speak of retiring but still are as busy as ever.

The Dickey Family

William Dickey and his son Howard came from Nebraska and bought land just south of the Heenan quarter in 1918, leaving two sons, Basil and Alfred, in Nebraska. His wife was in a Government Hospital there, where she remained until her death. He was a good horseman and in a short time had a few horses, some machinery, and was in the business of farming here, as well as in Nebraska. In a few years he and Howard returned to the States. On his return he brought Basil who was 13 years old with him, and together they farmed here until Mr. Dickey's death in 1942. They had one of the first radios in the district, and the neighbors would go to their place on Friday nights to listen to the Old Time Music Program. Mr. Dickey was keenly interested in all community affairs, often visiting neighbors on Sundays, as well as attending all auction sales. He purchased a car in the early years but preferred to drive his horses which he was always very proud of. He developed a good line of Belgian horses which he raised for sale.

Basil attended Norma and Bentley schools. In 1942 he and Mildred Anderson of Bentley were married. She had been working as a house keeper for the Dickeys for a few years. They had two sons, Claude and Merle. In 1938 Mr. Dickey built a fully modern home powered by a Delco, furnishing it completely with good furniture, dishes, etc. Until then they had been living in a small house that was on the farm, with few comforts.

But he did not enjoy his new home for long. His wife died about 1943, when he returned to Nebraska to look after funeral arrangements. He was not too well and died on the train as he was coming back, just after he crossed the border into Canada; a sad ending to a rather difficult life. Basil and Mildred continued to live on the farm here. Basil was unable to carry on the farming very well so in a few years the land was rented out to neighboring farmers. Most things of value were sold as time went by, but Basil and Mildred still live in the house.

Mr. Dickey always played the stock markets.

Every morning he would visit the Prevo elevator to get the latest prices on futures in the wheat market. Basil has carried on this practise. He has an exceptional memory for grain prices, remembering accurately the price of wheat in 1928. He also never forgets people or names, and is known and liked by people for miles around.

Olaf Eggen

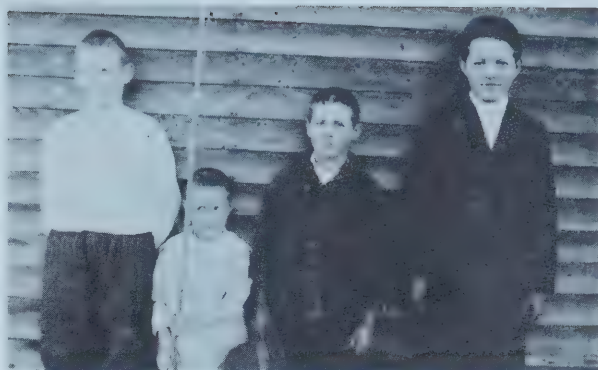
Olaf Eggen, originally from Norway, came from North Dakota in 1899 and homesteaded in the Blindman Valley, straddling the river straight south of the Aspelund Hall. In 1900 his son, John B. Eggen and bride came also from North Dakota taking the adjoining homestead south of his father.

In 1907 he sold his land and bought a quarter section on the Blackfalds road, NW¼-23-29-28-W4. They with their two sons, Oren and Hector, moved to Eugene, Oregon, renting their land until 1913 when they returned to Canada and to their land here. A son John and two daughters, Gertrude and Helen were born in Oregon. Two daughters, Edna and Agnes were born later. After the tragic death of Agnes in 1942 they sold their farm to their son Oren and moved to Calgary in 1943. Oren and family lived on the farm until 1961, when it was sold to Jacob Vanderleek.

Mrs. John Eggen's father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. Peder Lowe, also from North Dakota, homesteaded in the Aspelund district in 1898. They had three sons Herman, Leanord, and Rudy.

The Erskine Families

Robert (Guy) and Sara Erskine immigrated to Canada from U.S.A. about 1915, buying two quarters of land, SW ¼-26-39-W5, the place where Durham School was built was on this land and donated by Guy Erskine. The other quarter was bought from Mr. Balou who had given up his hopes of finding oil there, and is owned now by Lavern Park who bought



Archie, Harold and John Erskine, Chris Riis.

it from Henry Pickering, who still lives there. The Erskines farmed it for several years before selling it to Guy's brother, John Minor Erskine about 1923. Minor and his wife Terrie had one daughter, Dorothy.

Dorothy, and three children of the first Erskine family all attended school at Durham. Dorothy later served as a missionary of the Pentecostal Church in Africa.

Minor Erskine farmed here until 1944 when he sold to Domy Nagy and Henry Pickering, and he and his family moved to Vancouver Island.

Freda Gheseger and Family

Freda Gheseger, nee Spycher, was born on the present Chris Spycher farm, April 26, 1923; the fifth child of Marie and Ernest Spycher.

She attended Durham School with her four older brothers, being taught by Miss Mary Holton for the first six years, and by Miss Shelia Hanna for the remainder of her school years at Durham. In the fall of 1939, she entered High School at Prairie Bible Institute at Three Hills, Alberta.

From 1940 to 1943 the years were spent attending Western Bible College in Winnipeg, Manitoba, graduating in 1943. After a period of probation, she received her Deaconess papers with the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada, in 1944. During the period from Graduation until 1949, she was involved in children, and youth work in the provinces of Alberta, and British Columbia. Two of these years were spent as Provincial Supervisor of Childrens Outreach of Alberta.

One very enjoyable year was spent as the Assistant Pastor of the P.A.O.C. church at Dawson Creek, B.C. In the mid-forties Dawson Creek was not the modern city it has become today, but a jumbled collection of tar papered shacks, hurriedly constructed frame buildings, and a main street consisting of a rude assortment of stores, cafes, hotels, lumberyards, service stations, and churches. After a two



Dorothy (Erskine) Lundgren, a missionary in Africa.



Ernie Spycher and sister Freda, 1941.



Freda and Lon Geseger, Dale, Barry and Wayne.

day rain, main street would become a sea of blue mud, the consistency of whipped cream, and about twelve inches deep. Sunday School and Church visitation was done, for the most part, on horseback. Hunting and fishing were unparalleled and many excursions were enjoyed by the parsonage household. On one such occasion the hunting party was joined by a young lady who was helping with the Sunday School. She tied her long hair up in a new kerchief. During the course of the hunt the rain came

down in torrents. Upon returning to base, and removing her head gear, she discovered with horror, that her once beautiful blonde hair had turned a brilliant blue.

In 1947, Freda received ordination as a Lady Worker. She returned home in the fall of 1949 to assist in the church at Bentley, by starting a childrens broadcast on C.K.R.D. It was called the Saviors Air Corps, and was produced weekly for the ensuing five years. She also helped in the Sunday school, Beach Church, Drive-in Church and Radio Rallies. During the period from 1949 to 1962 she also worked as an operator on the Alberta Government Telephones switchboard, in Bentley, and from 1963 to 1966 on a part time basis.

On December 4, 1962, she was united in marriage to Lon W. Gheseger, the eldest son of Emma and John Gheseger. Lon was born Jan. 2, 1912 in Montana, and moved to the sunset district, with his parents at the age of two. His father was a Texan ranger, and a geologist for a mining company prior to settling in the Bentley area.

September 13, 1964 Lon and Freda moved to her Grandfathers retirement home, on the Chris Spycher farm, where the family still resides.

Three sons were born to them, Barry Lon Nov. 10, 1964, Dale John May 18, 1966, and Wayne William, April 1, 1968.

Lon passed away on January 20, 1972. For the following two years Freda supported her family by working as a free lance commercial artist. Since 1975 she has been employed at Parkland School, Red Deer, which Barry attends. Dale and Wayne are receiving their education at Bentley.

W. Guenther

The William Guenther Family moved into the Durham district in April 1951. We bought our land from the Vince Mastersons who had purchased it from the Koots of Sylvan Lake. Koots in turn had bought it from Harry Pickering.

There was still lots of snow on the ground and roads were not gravelled, so we had to travel on them real early in the morning while they were still frozen, to get our belongings here. We sure ploughed through the mud for a few years till roads were gravelled. Highway 11 was narrow and gravelled too when we first came. The house Harry Pickering built we still live in, we have made quite a few changes to it. We tore the big red barn down a few years ago, and have put up a couple of quantzit buildings. We really enjoyed the threshing bees we had with our neighbors, the Pickerings and Zimmermans but we're glad we have the combines and hay bines and wagons to do most of the heavy work now. We enjoy our modern conviences too such as and electric stove, fridge

and freezers. A telephone with only 3 families on the line instead of the 15 who use to be on it.

When we came here we had 2 sons. Dennis 2½ yrs. and James 10 months. Then Bryce arrived in 1952 and our only daughter Donna in 1954. They all attended school in Bentley. They all did well in school. Dennis was his class Validictorian and Bryce was a runner up to the Valdictorian in his class. All were active in sports and won several awards. Dennis is a veterinarian now, he took his schooling in Edmonton and Saskatoon. He works with the Central Alberta Clinic in Red Deer. He married the former Cheryl Bunnage of Hillspring, Alberta in 1970, and they have four daughters; Tracey 9 yrs., Marcia 7 yrs., Kimberley 3 yrs. and Erin 1 yr.

James went to Olds and graduated from the College there. He is in partners with his Dad and he and his family live in our yard. He married Cheryl Anne Stalberg in 1976 and they have 2 daughters: Sarah Jean 3 yrs. and Laura Lynn 9 months old.

Bryce took his college education in the States at Rexburg, Idaho and Provo, Utah. He is working in Red Deer. Donna took a Book keeping course in Edmonton and now lives in Calgary. She is married to Mark Hinman. She works as a computer operator for a construction firm and Mark is a radio technician for a radio station.

All our boys and son-in-law served 2 year missions for our church and we are all active members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

Bill enjoys his Simmental Cattle, he has had Herefords but has gone back to Simmental. We have always liked sheep so we have several hundred around every winter. Bill is on the sheep committee for the Westerner Exhibition. Bill and Hazel are both members of Unifarm and Hazel is an active Red Cross worker.

We really like our neighbors, they are wonderful to be around and we are very glad we chose this area to settle in. It's the best.

William Heenan

William Andrew (Bill) Heenan was born in 1877 and was raised on a farm near Wardsville, Ontario. In his teens he went north to the Lake of the Woods every winter to work in lumber camps. He enjoyed the work of a lumber jack always remembering it with pleasure.

Later he came west with the harvest crews; and at about 1900 he came as far as southern Alberta on a harvest excursion. Since there were few threshing machines, each machine had a long run moving from place to place until nearly Christmas time. Here he joined a bridge building crew and worked his way north to Blackfalds. The late Mr. O. Hedemark was

foreman of the crew. He took a homestead by the Blindman River in 1902 and erected a two storey log house.

Later he traded this homestead for a store business in Sylvan Lake which he operated for several years. During this time he married Elizabeth (Lizzie) Hazlett. Their daughter, Sara, Mrs. Archie Carlyle, resides west of Blackfalds.

About 1916 he traded the store business for an unimproved half section in the Aspelund district, E-½-13-39-1-W5. The first summer was spent in tents; besides the house tent there was a storage tent, a tent for the horses, one for the cows, and another for the chickens. Before winter a log barn was ready, a house purchased and moved onto the farm and made livable.

Mr. Heenan always admired a good horse and took pride in raising and working good horses. He felt they were a big improvement over the oxen of his homesteading days. For several years he had two mules which he worked along with horses on a six horse outfit. While working the mules he never had to carry a watch as they always knew when it was meal time, and brayed eagerly on the homeward stretch of the field.

After Mrs. Heenan died in 1939 Bill continued to farm for a few years, then sold the farm to Mr. and Mrs. J. O. VanSlyke and moved to Kelowna. He died there in 1955 and is buried in Bentley Cemetery. Lavern Park now resides on the farm.

William Hammond

The William Hammond family moved to the acreage 23-39-1-W5 in 1978.

Both he and his wife's family have lived in the Central Alberta area for many years. Williams grandfather, William John Parke Hammond, owned a farm machinery business in the early 1920's in Red Deer. His son Reginald moved to Rocky Mountain House in 1925 where he managed the Mine Timbers and Tie business. In 1927 Reg met Dorothy Jackson and they were married in 1928. Dorothy's family had come from Lewis County, New York, U.S.A. to the Arbutus district where they had homesteaded in 1913. Dorothy's mother had run a restaurant for a year at Alhambra for the railraod. They moved to Rocky Mountain House in 1926. Reg and Dorothy had three children born in Rocky Mountain House; Doris, William John and Edward Clayton. In 1933 they moved to a farm west of Airdrie. They had a daughter Janet Pauline who was born in Calgary. They lived there until 1942 when Reg was killed in a farm accident. Dorothy and her four children moved back to Rocky Mountain House where she remarried in 1944 and moved to Nordegg. They moved back to



Dorothy and Reg Hammond, baby Doris, 1929.



Reg Hammond stacking hay, 1940.



Reg Hammond with the hay sweep, 1940.

Rocky Mountain House in 1948 where they lived until Dorothy died in 1966.

William met his wife Patricia Ruth Hardie in 1960 and they were married in 1961. Her grandfather Jack Hardie, had come from Scotland in 1904 to Red Deer. His wife to be, Elizabeth Stuart, came from Glasgow, Scotland in 1906. She had come by train across Canada to rails end in Red Deer where they were married. Jack was a stone cutter by trade and worked on St. Lukes Church which is still standing in Red Deer. Their son James was born in a house on what is now the old Red Deer fairgrounds. Jack hauled freight to Rocky Mountain House from Red Deer with horse and wagon, and in 1909 he moved his family to settle on the S.E. ¼-3-39-7-W5, about three miles south of Rocky Mountain House. They built their house on the banks of the Clearwater River in sight of the mouth of Prairie Creek which is on their land. Jack and Elizabeth had a daughter Ella born there. Jack worked with his horse and sloop to help build the railroad to Rocky Mountain House in 1910. He started one of the first sheep herds in the area and his son Jim still has a herd. Jack died in 1925 and Elizabeth lived in the area until she died at the age of eighty-five. Jim Hadrie married Edith Clancy in 1935. Edith was the daughter of Roy Clancy and Ruth Willet. Roy was born in Fargo, North Dakota in 1892. Ruth was born in Houghton, Michigan on the edge of Lake Superior 1895. Both Roy's and Ruth's parents were born in the United States. Roy and Ruth were married in Hanncock, Michigan in 1913 and moved to the Everdell district where Roys father Michael had held a quarter by proxy. Ruth and Roy had travelled by train as far as Rocky Mountain House where they had to take a team and wagon the last eight or nine miles. It took them all afternoon and early evening to get there. There was a small house on the quarter. A sawmill came into the area a couple of years later and they got some lumber to build their house. The sawmill owner would take part of the lumber as payment. Roy and Ruth had three girls; Alice, Edith and Thelma who all live in Rocky Mountain House. Jim and Edith still live and farm on the Hardie homestead. Jim has owned and operated sawmills in the district and also has had large cats to do clearing and construction work around Rocky Mountain House. Jim and Edith had three children; Jack who lives in Wetaskiwin, Patricia and Edith Lienweber, who lives in Rocky Mountain House.

William and Patricia had lived in the subdivision of Central Park in the Crossroads district for seventeen years. They have four children; Debra, who will graduate from Mount Royal College in Calgary in

1981, Shannon, Lorrie and Reginald, who attend school in Bentley.

William is a plumber and gasfitter, having apprenticed under Burnetts Plumbing in Red Deer. He has worked in the Red Deer area since and has been with the Alberta Government for the past few years.

The Hammonds are interested in camping, skating, hockey, swimming, horseback riding and a farm style of life.

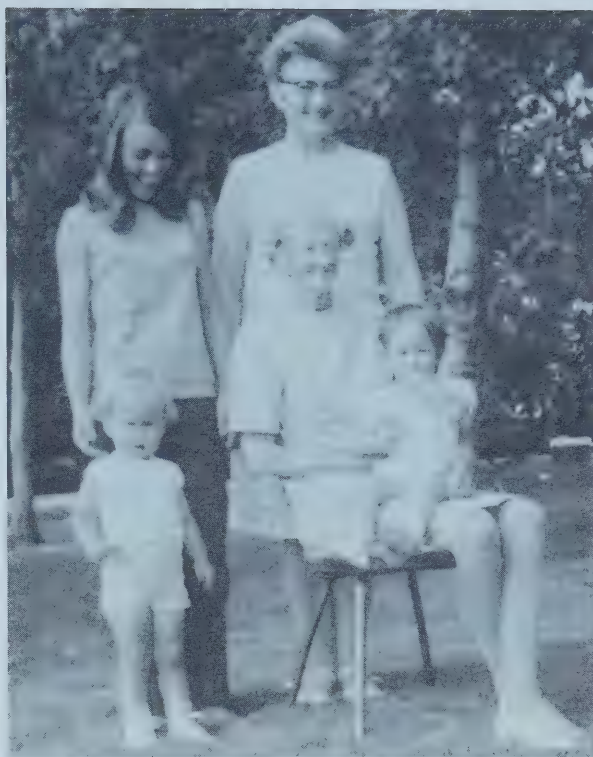
Gordon and Elsie Hunter Family by Elsie Hunter

Gordon Hunter and I, Elsie Zimmerman, were married April 13th, 1940. We were married at my grandfather's (Mr. Webber) home in the country and, because of an early spring thaw, the roads were in such poor condition several of the guests (including the groom's parents) could not be there. The bride and groom had to go by team and wagon.

The first four years of our marriage were spent in the Bentley and Lacombe area. Gordon entered the armed services in 1944 and I and our young son, Earl, moved to Sylvan Lake, where we have since made our home.

Gordon served with the Royal Canadian Artillery out of Calgary, Camp Shilo, Portage La Prairie, and the P.O.W. Camp in Lethbridge.

Gordon was born at Barons, Alberta in 1919, the fifth son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Hunter. They



Four Generations: Lorraine, Elsie, Stella Zimmerman, Kim and Vickie, 1971.



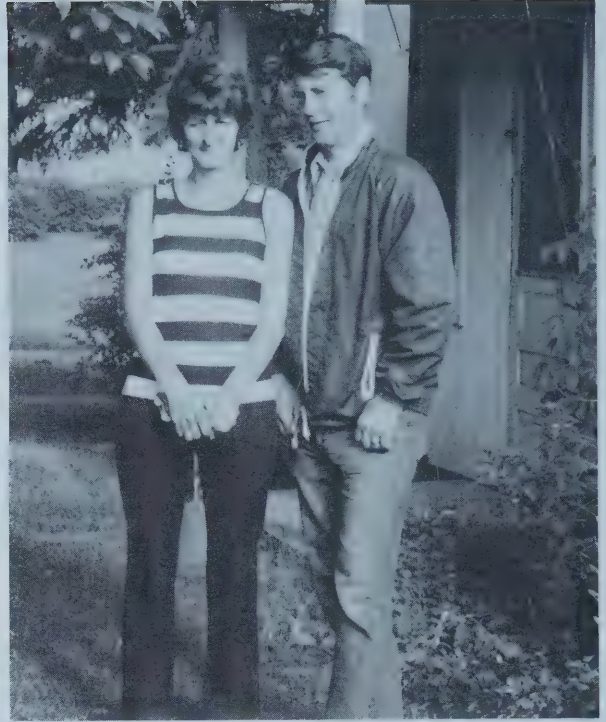
Four Generations: John Zimmerman, Elsie Hunter holding Lorraine, Chris Zimmerman and Earl Hunter in front, 1946.



Gordon and Elsie Hunter, 1980.



Wilma, Carrie, Lee and Wesley Hunter, 1979.



Earl and Frances Hunter.



Brian, Lorraine, Jodi, Vickie, Bradley and Kim Biette, 1979.

moved to the Bentley area in 1929 and the Breton area in 1925.

We have three children: Earl Wesley born July, 1942, Lorraine Gail born August, 1945, and Lee Ross born August, 1947.

Gordon has been with the Sylvan Lake Volunteer Fire Department for 30 years, serving as Fire Chief most of that time. He is at present president of the Alberta Fire Chiefs' Association. He is employed with the Gulf Service of Red Deer, and I have worked at the Sylvan Lake Hardware for the past 19 years.

Earl married Frances Hartung of Langenburg, Sask. and works as a shift foreman, heavy duty diesel mechanic for Newmont Copper Mines, Princeton, B.C. Earl has two children from a previous marriage, Maureen Christina and Earl Daniel.

Lorraine married Brian Biette and lives in Basano, where Brian is employed with Pan Canadian Oil and Gas. They have four children: Kim Vickie, Jodie, and Bradley.

Lee married Wilma Schaay of Calgary. He is an employee of the Royal Bank and at present is assistant manager in Lethbridge. They have two children, Carrie and Wesley.

I would like to recall some of the pleasant special events surrounding my years in the Durham School.

The annual Christmas concert was always a happy occasion for all the students — grades I to X. We spent four to five weeks of continuous practise at recess and noon on our dialogue parts, recitations, and songs. Then came the big moment. The stage had to be set, the curtains hung, and the tree and the room decorated in readiness for the evening. The hour arrived, the room was packed, and for roughly

one and one half hours we took our turns in displaying our acting ability. Following this Santa arrived and passed out all the goodies. This particular evening seemed to announce the arrival of Christmas.

Earlier in the fall there was the school fair held in Sylvan Lake. Most of the surrounding schools participated displaying everything including art, penmanship, baking, sewing, woodwork, grains, vegetables, calves, colts, pigs; you name it and it was there. There was a full afternoon of sports, and Durham always seemed to have its full share of prizes from the day's activities.

In June, on the last day of school, there was the community picnic. The mothers would supply ample food, spreading it out on tables in the classroom for everyone to share. There was always gallons of yummy homemade ice-cream.

In those days there was no gym for us to play in, so recess and noon hour found all students gathering outside to play such games as Dare, Redlight, Hide and Seek, Pump-pump-pull-away, Fox and Goose, and others. I recall one fall when we chose to tear apart the several rows of neatly ricked wood and build a castle of sorts with several rooms in it. Of course, there came the day when it all had to be ricked again before winter set in.

I must not fail to mention the plasticine age. Some students could do wonders with it. I recall how Godfery Spycher could mold the perfect horse in every detail, even the clove in the hoof.

Of course there were days when things didn't go smoothly. I remember only too well the day we challenged Norma School to a soft ball game. About mid-way in the game Bernard Sjare and I came crashing together in center field. I ended up in the hospital with a broken leg, and Bernard went around for a couple of days with a knee about the size of a football.

Those were GOOD years, and we all share pleasant memories of the hours spent together in that one room school.

The Kelso Families

Alec Kelso and his nephew, Finley Kelso, immigrated from Scotland to the Durham District about 1904, homesteading on the SE ¼-22-39-1-W5, one half mile south of where the Durham School was later to be built. This quarter is now owned by W. Guenther.

Finley and his uncle proved their homestead with much hard work. In 1923 Finley married Winnie of Bentley, and together they continued to farm for many years. They had no children.

In their quiet way they won the respect of all who



Mr. and Mrs. F. Kelso, 1936.

knew them, and were missed by their neighbors when they sold their land, retired, and moved to Vancouver in 1948.

Knieper History sent in by Beth (Knieper) Baldry and Phyllis (Brandson, Lind) Knieper

Oren Adolphus Knieper (Charlie) was born in 1888 near Keokuk, Clarke County, Missouri, U.S.A. and moved to Alberta in 1900, arriving in the fall. Dad went to work on ranches and farms in the Quill Lake area and various other places. In 1921 or 22 he bought ¼ of land 4 miles north of Sylvan Lake, just at the south end of Blindman Valley. The farm didn't have many buildings, just a two roomed house, one downstairs, and one upstairs, to which Dad later built on a lean-to kitchen, and a horse barn with a lean-to on one side for the cows.

It was while he was working in the Gull Lake area that he met our mother, Freda Mae Adams from Winfield, Alberta. They were married August 20th of 1924.

Arlie was born September 1st of 1927. Elizabeth (Beth) was born November 4th, 1928, and Glenn was born in June 1938.

Our neighbor Mary Nelson helped Mom with sewing, and handiwork which she is very good at yet. We had a mixed farm, plus a market garden and Mom raised chickens to be sold during the summer, and fall months in Sylvan Lake and Red Deer.

Dad was fortunate to get a place with a creek flowing through it and there was a spring on the



Knieper home place, Blindman Valley, Dad and Glen.



25th Wedding Anniversary. Charlie and Freda Knieper, Steve Olson, Dwaine and Linda.

neighbors place which was used to pipe water to a trough for the cows and on through to a pig trough. It was quite a ways from the house and up quite a hill to carry it, until Dad could dig a well. We used a windless on this until Dad put a handpump in. He erected a tank above the well and we could pump this full, then it was piped to the pigs which saved alot of water hauling also, but lots of arm work, doing the pumping.

Dad owned an old Happy Farmer Tractor with one wheel in front which he used to grind all the grain with. It is the only one I have ever seen. We farmed with horses until Dad bought a steel wheeled John Deere about 1938. Dad farmed Grandfather's original homestead, as well. Which was only a few miles south of our farm. Also a homestead at Pendryl, Alberta that he had acquired in 1929.

Everyone helped with the farming operation, from hauling wood, threshing, stooking, chores to gardening. We picked lots of berries as they were always plentiful.

Winters were spent hauling wood to be sawed in spring. Usually the neighbors would get together and saw huge piles of wood to be split during the summer. They also threshed together. One owned a threshing machine or separator and another a tractor, and others hauled the bundles in. Some neighbors hauled ice, but Dad dug a large square hole approximately 15 feet deep in a shaded area. Cased it, and put a ladder in it. Put a good cover on it, and during the winter he carried pails of water and filled it up to the top. This was used to keep the cream, meat, butter, and milk etc. cool. During the summer the ice would melt and seep away. Vegetables were always stored in a dirt dugout cellar under the house. Where they kept very well until the following spring.

Dad owned a model T which he sold to someone in the antique car club and the last time he drove it was in 1953 or 54 in the Olds Parade.

We attended school at the Carritt School, which was about one mile northwest of our place across the fields. The teachers worked hard with the grades one to nine students, plus getting concerts and other parties ready for everyone's entertainment.

Glenn finished his schooling at the Hazel Dell School at Stauffer where Dad and Mom had bought a farm in 1950 after selling the farm at Blindman Valley.

Dad passed away in 1966 after a lengthy illness and is laid to rest in the Raven Cemetery. Mom is living in Saskatoon, Sask., still busy with crafts and needlework and is in fairly good health.

Arlie Knieper married Steve Olson, April 12th in 1944 (Son of Knut and Lydia Olson) at Boyle area about 6 miles northwest of our farm. They farmed at the Olson place, until they moved to Stauffer in 1948. Their son Dwaine was born December 25, 1944. Their daughter Lynda was born March 18, 1946. Their second daughter, Marguerite was born December 26, 1953. They moved to Saskatchewan about 1960. They resided at Glenside for sometime and then moved to Saskatoon where they are still living. Arlie is employed as a component checker at A.E.L.

Microtel. Steve is a heavy duty mechanic and operator at C. M. Specialty Rentals.

Dwaine and Rhoda live at Ponoka, Alberta. Dwaine works for Ponoka Implements and Rhoda is a Lab Technician at the General Hospital in Ponoka. They have three children, Lionel, Harley and Cheri. They attend school at Ponoka.

Lynda married Marlo Iverson in December 1965. They farm at Outlook, Saskatchewan. Marlo is also a maintenance operator. Lynda is a nurses aid and works at the Senior Citizens Lodge, in Outlook. They have a daughter, Theresa born in June 1970. They also have a son David, born in April 29, 1972.

Marguerite married Brian Wolfe on July 6, 1975. Brian is a Machinist at Crankshaft Services in Saskatoon. They have one son Nathan, born April 29, 1980. They live in Saskatoon.

Elizabeth (Beth) Knieper married Lee Baldry of Sylvan Lake January 14, 1945. We worked in various areas until we settled on a farm at Caroline in May of 1952.

Grant was born November 1, 1945. He married Barbara Hansen, (Granddaughter of Levi Erickson) of Sylvan Lake July 4, 1969. They live at Rocky Mountain House. Grant is employed at Quinn Contracting and Barbara is a cashier at the I.G.A. store. They have two girls, Sharman, born on December 3, 1969. And Kimberley born July 29, 1971. They attend the Lochearn School at Rocky and are both active as guides.

Peggy was born January 12, 1948. She married Delbert Ennis of Caroline August 4, 1967. Delbert is employed by Teardrop Transport. Peggy is employed part time at the Caroline post office. They live near Caroline. They have two children. Michael born April 16, 1969. Kristine was born March 29, 1972. They attend Caroline school and Michael is active in Scouts.

Janet was born June 28, 1952. She married Ivan Korth of Dovercourt in July 1969. They had two girls, Tammy born April 7, 1970, and Penny born November 30, 1971. They were later divorced and Janet has since married Bill Courtright of Rocky Mountain House. They have one son Tyler born December 2, 1974. They live at Caroline. Bill is employed at Carson Construction and the children attend Caroline School.

Susan was born October 3, 1953. She married Tim Graham of Caroline May 29, 1971. They had two children, Clayton born April 26, 1972 and Bonnie born November 23, 1974. They are divorced and Susan lives at Osoyoos, B.C.

Candis born December 17, 1954. She married Rusty Haney August 3, 1977 from Atikokan, Ontario. They live at Sylvan Lake. Rusty is employed

by seismic. They have 3 girls, Stephanie born August 26, 1974, Melanie born July 14, 1978, and Nicole born October 19, 1980.

Bruce was born January 12, 1956. He married Lori-Ann Demas of Alhambra July 1977. Bruce is employed at Rocky Mountain House. They live near Caroline and have 1 daughter Brandee, born December 17, 1977.

Greta was born September 29, 1965. She is attending grade ten at the Caroline Senior High School.

All of the children went to school at Crammond and finished at Caroline School.

Glenn Knieper married Phyllis (Brandson) (Lind) on May 7, 1960. She was the daughter of Johann and Lula Brandson of Stauffer. Phyllis had been married and widowed and had a daughter Wendy born March 6, 1958. And now they have four children. Darren born February 15, 1961, Corinne born August 16, 1964 and Ronny May 29, 1967.

We started farming in 1960 at Stauffer and had as high as 40 sows, to farrow. We sold feeder pigs and Glenn worked for Skodopols Construction for twelve years. Then in 1974 we strated in to dairy and have been in the dairy business since.

Wendy married Dale Fisher (Son of Jean and Ralph Fisher) of Condor on April 2, 1977. Dale works on Oil Construction and Wendy worked in restaurants in Red Deer, Eckville and Rocky then to Revelstoke Lumber Mill for a while until they decided to start their family and Jesse their son was born July 10, 1980. They live in the Candor area.

Darren finished school at David Thompson High School in 1979. He worked for a carpenter from Leslieville the last year of school, building houses, garages, and barns and after finishing school he went to work on the oil rigs. And at this time he's still on rigs.

Corinne is attending David Thompson High and is in grade eleven. Ronny is in grade eight at David Thompson also.

Edward and Nanie Lofgren

Edward (Ed) Andrew Lofgren immigrated from Sweden to Duluth, Minnesota as a young man. Nanie Caroline Anderson came a short time later and they were married in Duluth. In 1903 they homesteaded near Stavely, Alberta. Three of their children, Ruth, Agnes, and Henry were born here. In 1910 they moved to Power, Montana where Bill, Emma, Axel, Fred, and Walter were born. In 1918 the Lofgrens returned to Alberta, buying land west of Blackfalds, SE 26-39-1-W5, from Magnus Boodie. This quarter was fenced, but had no other improvements. Later the northeast quarter was purchased, which had been

homesteaded by Terry Ames. There had been some log buildings on it when they arrived, but they had been burned.

The trip from Great Falls, Montana had been made by train. This included eight small children, some machinery, a few cows, horses, and one mule. After a two-day stay in Blackfalds Hotel all their belongings were loaded on one wagon, and, very much overloaded, they headed west over a rough road to their new home. Along the way they met Ray Miller who helped them out by sharing their load. They had lunch at the home of J. Eggen and arrived at the Magnus Boode farm by evening. Here they stayed until the next day, when they left the children until some order was established in their new home. This turned out to be a one-room log cabin on the quarter just west of theirs, built by Mr. Balou. Here they stayed from April until November when their new house was finished. It was a lovely big frame home built of lumber from the Blackfalds Drug Store with the help of Harry Pickering and J. Eggen. Here Leanord was born, and the family of nine grew and enjoyed many happy times together until one by one they left for homes of their own.

They attended Aspelund School until it became overcrowded, when they went to Carrit. It was through the efforts of Ed Lofgren and Mr. Erskine that the Durham School was finally built. They spent days canvassing the district; also nine children helped add to the number in need of a school.

Horse and buggy was the mode of travel for years, as Ed never did own a car. The boys owned cars of course, providing their parents with transportation. The first tractor, a Tighen, was bought in 1924 when another half section (the former Kline farm) was added. As with their first land this was all cleared and broke the hard way. However the whole family worked together and in a few years they were raising some excellent wheat and other crops. A big horse barn, which still is used and in good condition, was built by Ed and his sons in 1933 of lumber from trees just to the south, the old Reiswig land.

This barn in its early years was the spot for many barn dances. People came from miles around in wagons, buggies, and on horse back every two weeks. A big yard would be full of horses tied to the outfits where they were given hay brought by their owners, so they wouldn't object to staying sometimes until daylight the next day. On Sunday afternoons this same yard was a favorite spot for hard ball when the local young people would have another get-together. Christmas Eve and Christmas Day was open house at the Lofgren home, especially for the local bachelors. At times over twenty people would sit around the table for Christmas dinner. Even though they had no



Ed and Nanie Lofgren, about 1945.



The Lofgren Family. Back Row, L. to R.: Axel, Nanie, Ed, Henry, Ruth. Front Row, L. to R.: Walter, Leonard, Agnes, Freddie.

relatives in this country they were never alone, as they had a host of friends.

Nannie died in 1949 and is buried in the Sylvan Lake Cemetery; Ed in 1947 and is buried in the Sylvan Lake Cemetery, due to very wet and muddy conditions at the time. Emma died in 1922, Walter in 1974, and Henry and Ruth in 1979. Of those remaining, Willie lives in Clemath Falls, Oregon; Fred in Spokane, Washington; Agnes and Philip (Schmidt), Red Deer; and Leanord in or near Salmon Arm, B.C. All but Axel and Walter married. Ruth married Emil Schmidt, also a pioneer in the Blindman Valley, so their history, as well as that of Agnes and Philip, another pioneer, will be found in this book. Axel lives in Rimbey.

The Vincent Masterson Family

The Vincent Masterson family came to the Durham District from Ladner, B.C. in March 1948. They bought the farm from a Mr. Koots of Sylvan Lake who owned a general store there.



Masterson family home, about three miles south of Durham School (now W. Guenther home).



Vince, Lois, Phyllis and Myrtle Masterson, Don Barnett (husband of Rose Masterson), 1949.

Vince was a retired business man and wanted to try his hand at farming. They had 2 daughters, Phyllis and Lois. They attended school at Durham where a Miss Still was the supervisor. Courses were by correspondence for grades 1 to 8. Then they went to Boarding School in Red Deer at St. Joseph's Convent for 6 years. They went to mass in Sylvan Lake which was "a mission" of Sacred Heart Parish in Red Deer. Mass was only every other Sunday in Sylvan so they

drove to Red Deer on alternate Sundays — Rain-Shine-Sleet or Snow. How well they remember how impassable the roads became in the spring. "The Mud", pushing the car, a 1946 Mercury, to the top of Zimmermans hill, getting beautifully spattered from head to toe while shouting "Rock it Dad Rock it".

They loved the warmth and friendliness of the wonderful families who helped them so much, Zimmermans, Sjares, Pickerings, Wards and Ramseys.

The card parties at the country school. Norma, on Friday night, Durham the next Friday evening. Ladies brought lunch, everyone played whist, then they ate and danced. Babies went to sleep on top of the coats and they were wonderful family outings for the whole family. Vince loved to play cribbage and swap tales with his neighbors. Myrtle sewed everything she and the girls wore.

Phyllis, the oldest girl, married Peter Strewkens in 1953. Peter passed away in Calgary in 1975 and now Phyllis works in a local Jewelry Store. She has 6 children: Vincent, Tamara, Peter, Michael, John and Mary-Ann.

Lois married Gilles Bouchard in 1956 and they live in Richmond, B.C. They have 4 children. Paul 21 yrs., and he's in Australia working; Christopher 20 yrs. just graduated from Business Technical school; Diane 19 yrs. works in Richmond; and David is 16 yrs. and will graduate from High School in '81. Lois is a free lance research writer.

Vince died in Red Deer in 1956 and Myrtle died in Calgary in 1973.

Recalling the years in the Durham District was a labor of love, but my mind rambled happily, far beyond what I have recorded. That's the beauty of historical research, each memory triggers another.

Lois Masterson Bouchard

Joseph O'Meara

Joseph O'Meara and his sons, Tom and Owen, came to Alberta from Ireland near the turn of the century to settle on the NW ¼-13-39-1 W5. The original owner of this quarter was the C.P.R. J.O., as he was called, was a big man and is remembered for his comical Irish wit. Tom had received a good education in his homeland. Owen attended Aspelund School to the sixth or seventh grade, but he had over three miles to walk and it is noted that he was nearly always late.

They lived in a low log house for several years until it became past being livable, when they moved over to the old Heenan place for a year while they built a small frame house on their land. They had some horses and a few cows. One day a cow fell in the dug well, but with a helping hand from Bob

Pickering, Albert Southall, and Bill Heenan they were able to pull her out.

Owen liked to tinker and fix machinery. In later years he purchased an eight horse power stationary engine that he used to pull around with horses to saw wood for the neighbors. Tom liked to read, and would go to Pickerings and read until the family would go to bed. The last one would say, "Put out the light when you go, Tom."

One evening Bob Pickering, knowing the old man was alone, got a feeling he should go to see him. He found J. O. very sick. He had been banging on a dish pan with a big spoon hoping someone would hear. Bob took him home and got medical help. He had a stomach operation and later amused the neighbors by his description of the proceedings. Apparently he had been frozen for the operation and had watched the whole procedure.

In 1929 J. O. sold his land to Bob Pickering, but died that year while still living there. Owen married Sylvia Adams and they moved to Buck Lake. Tom went to B.C. They have both since died.

Domokos and Mary Nagy and Family

Domokos (Domy) Nagy was born on February 29, 1904 in Gegeș, Romania to Alix and Julia Nagy. His father owned a brick factory. At the age of thirteen Domy was in the cavalry division of the Romanian forces in the first world war. All the able-bodied men and boys were in the forces leaving the women and girls to farm or look after the business. Domy drove horses with wagon loads of supplies for the front lines.

In May, 1928 he left his home and emigrated to Canada, a trip which took twenty-eight days due to problems with the engine of the ship. He eventually arrived in Calgary where his biggest problem was communication as he did not know one word of English.

Immigrants were being hired to work on farms. Domy's first job was in the Cluny district, east of

Calgary, working the land with eight head of horses. However he was only there three weeks when he fell off a horse breaking his arm, so he was sent back to Calgary where he had to go on relief until his arm was healed. Then he thought he would try a logging camp on Vancouver Is., but returned to Calgary in the fall, continuing on to Saskatchewan for the harvest.

In 1929 he went to Churchill, Manitoba to work on the railroad and stayed with this work in various parts of the western provinces until 1934. Following this he worked a year for Burns Feed lot in Calgary feeding livestock.

In 1936 Domy came to Bentley area where his first job was tending twelve hundred head of sheep for Bill Begart, and also for Mr. Histle. This touch with sheep seemed to grow on Domy as he has been a sheep man ever since. In 1938 he went into partnership with George Stephenson with a flock of close to two thousand sheep.

At this time he and his close friend Gay Lorenzy rented some farm buildings from John Helstad where they fed sheep and pigs. Finally in 1940 he had saved enough money to buy his own farm, a quarter with buildings for \$1500.00! Pete Longs had lived there previously. Here Domy and his wife still live.

He heard of a family who lived in the Boyle district, who had come from Hungary. Here would be some people who could speak his native language, he thought, so he mounted his horse and went to Balogs to borrow something. He got a bonus — he met Mary! She recalls how she admired his beautiful saddle horse, but it wasn't too long before she decided Domy looked pretty good too. They were married on December 23, 1941. Mary had come from Hungary with her parents, John and Irene Balgo, in 1928 as well.

Domy and Mary took pleasure in fixing up the two room house with an upstairs attic room, and always felt they were comfortable. It was their home



Domy and a few of his sheep at the Bill Begart farm, 1936. Teddy and Fly, valuable dogs.



Nagy Family — Mary Julia, Domy, Helen.

for twenty-three years when they built a new house in which they still live.

Hard work was the order of the day for these two. There were only fifty acres broke on the quarter so the rest was cleared with a "Cat" and broke with the old breaking plow. Horses were used until years later when a small tractor was purchased. Mary recalls walking behind the harrows all day long or driving eight head of horses on the plow. As the years went by two more quarters were bought, one being where the Durham School stood.

After the crops were in, Domy would go sheering sheep to make some extra money, getting six cents a head for his work. He also maintained the road to help pay his taxes. Many men have found a home and a job with the Nagys in the past.

Helen was their first born, arriving on January 29, 1943. Then on February 12, 1950 Julia was born. The girls took their schooling in Bentley, except for Helen's first two years when she attended Durham School. They took an active part in the school activities and Helen enjoyed playing the piano as well. Julie loved to ride and won many trophies in gymkhana events. It took a strong faith and the supportive love of family and friends to help Mary and Domy through their sorrow when Helen died the day before her eighteenth birthday. After graduating

from High School Julie attended the Red Deer College for two years and the U. of A. for two years taking education. She then taught at the Parkland School for the Retarded for five years.

She married Paul Ree April 7, 1973. They have two children, Darin born February 22, 1974, and Nikki, born November 11, 1977; and farm west of Bentley.

The Nagys are members of Our Lady of the Assumption Church, Sylvan Lake. Mary is a member of the C.W.L. there, and very active in her church. She also belongs to the Golden Star Club and Birthday Club. She likes to curl and enjoys outside work and gardening.

Domy follows the Auction Mart circuit, usually bringing home some kind of an animal that he and Mary can give some tender loving care to.

James and Susan Park

Jim Park was born and raised west of Innisfail after his parents emigrated from England in 1900. Sue was born at Big Valley, but stayed with her Uncle Joe Quinlan of Elnora after the death of her parents when she was very young. She met Jim where she was teaching school near Pine Lake. They were married in 1940, and moved to Shouldice, Alberta where Jim was assistant grain buyer for the Pioneer Grain Co. Later he changed to the U.G.G. and they moved to a siding called Cygnet west of Red Deer. A year later this elevator was struck by lightning, burning completely. While here Sue taught the Burnt Lake School. The Cygnet elevator was not rebuilt so the next move was to Prevo.

After buying grain at Prevo from 1942-'52 they and their three children, Lavern aged six years, Judith (Judy) aged, four, and Russell aged one, bought the former Ed Lofgren farm. They built a new house and sold the original one to Mr. and Mrs. Peter VanDerleek Sr. who remodeled it after moving it to its present location overlooking the Blindman Valley. After having lived in many areas the beautiful Blindman Valley seemed the ideal spot to raise their family and start farming. They moved in July of 1952.

The first year hail relieved them of harvest worries, and repeated the performance in varying degrees of severity for eight of the next ten years. Until then there had been no hail in the district for almost twenty years. Cash was scarce, but their new modern home with indoor plumbing for the first time made it all seem worth while. Sue returned to teaching in Bentley after a leave of absence while her children were small.

In 1961, just before school started, Jim lost his lower arm in a swather power take-off accident. This was very upsetting to all, but the three children, two



Mary and Domy Nagy in their first barley crop, 1942.

in their early teens, were really good help. The whole family pitched in to do chores and get meals both before and after school. The crop was still to be combined, and Lavern, having some knowledge of the cattle care and the machinery, became a man over night, as Russell was only ten.

They knew they had moved among good friends but at this time their kindness was unbelievable. Sue would come home from school to find a “bee” of men and machines in the field, accompanied by another “bee” of ladies in the house providing the food; or they might find a cake or pie sitting on the cupboard ready for their supper. She and Jim have never been able to forget all that was done for them at that time.

They started farming with a second hand Case tractor, a few pieces of machinery, a faithful old team of horses (Barney and Lady), and a small herd of Hereford cattle. The land was nearly all under cultivation and a good rich soil, so when it didn't hail the crop was good and the debts grew smaller. Sue also added to her education as the years went by. One day when the children were small she slipped out to the chicken house for some eggs. While there the bull

came over and stood at the door. Being terrified of bulls she waited, and waited. Finally in desperation she broke a part off the roost to use in defense and made it back to the house. Another time when Jim was in the hospital with polio she was trying to tie the milk cows in the barn, but went up the wrong side, and the old cow pushed and held her against the wall. The harder she pushed, the more firmly the cow too pushed. Finally she managed to wiggle out and get



Preparing the garden, 1953. Lavern with the cultivator, Judy and Russell on Barney, Jim Park.



Jim Park farm home from the southeast toward Bentley area and the Sunset Hills, 1959.

back to the children who she had again left by themselves in the house. This happened shortly after moving to the farm and, as later, the neighbors came to the rescue. Henry and Billie Pickering saw that the cows were always milked. If the barn lights didn't come on when they should Henry was right over to see what was wrong.

Their family spent all their school years in Bentley, with the exception of Judy who, due to severe asthma, took her high school in Red Deer. Her asthma did improve when off the farm. She was married and had two daughters, Denise and Lisa. Unfortunately, she died suddenly at her home in Calgary of acute asthma at the age of thirty-one. Her two girls still live in Calgary with friends of Judy's whom she had chosen as guardians. Russ is a land surveyor working from an office in Calgary, where his work takes him to most parts of Alberta. He likes his work but has hopes of some day owning a ranch. He spent six months in Denmark before completing his education, as an Agricultural Exchange Student. While there he paid a visit to Rome. Lavern took Mechanical Technology at S.A.I.T., after which he worked in Calgary. In a couple of years he decided the city was not for him, he and his Dad bought the VanSlyke farm in 1969, and he started farming. Two years later he underwent open heart surgery as the result of a birth defect. The operation was a complete success, and he now owns and lives on his own farm, although he and his dad continue to work together.

The Parks, now semi-retired, still live on the farm and treasure the years that have been spent there.

Albert and Elizabeth Peck

In the summer of 1938 George Peck of Coaldale, Alberta decided to give up his barbering profession and become a farmer. At one time he had been a farmer in his native Hungary.

He came to central Alberta, checking out the land just north of Edmonton and south to Olds. The frequent rain showers he encountered on his trip through this area made him choose the Blindman Valley. After seeing the luscious growth and the greenness of everything, he found it hard to settle down to the continual watering, and irrigation of the south country. So with his mind made up for sure in the fall of 1938 the present Peck farm was bought from J. J. Duck.

His oldest son, Albert, was elected in the spring of 1939 to move the household furniture to the farm. Albert soon found out what the rain storms could do. Arriving 6 a.m., March 31, he was greeted by a sea of mud north of what then was Poplar Ridge Hall. The transport truck became stuck. The Maga boys were awakened early by the report of the new neighbor

being stuck up the road. Without the help of Mike and Bill Maga, Albert says he never would have made it down the valley. He also gratefully accepted an invitation for breakfast from Germaine Maga. To this day, forty-two years later, my husband still talks about the first home-cooked meal in the valley. I am sure that this was only one of the many meals and hospitality that was received from the Maga family over the years.

The entrance into the farm was very different from where it is now. At that time the road went east from what is now the Boy's Ranch, wound around what seemed a very steep coulee to the entrance about a quarter of a mile south of the bridge, and then, after going through the neighbor's land, you were there. There was a trail wide enough for a car, (in those days the Pecks owned a very hardy Model A Ford). Once on this "road" through the bush one could relax and enjoy the heavenly aroma of the flower and blossoms. Later in the season it was an absolute paradise for the berry picker. At the same time one could always expect to see deer, coyote, and such a variety of wild birds.

At first Mr. Peck rented his land to neighbors, while he and Mrs. Peck had eight head of cattle bought from Mr. Soderman, chickens, and a big garden, as they enjoyed the lovely fertile soil. In fact, Mrs. Peck was so busy and happy in the valley she never wanted to go anywhere. The cows were milked and the cream picked up by Harry Fisher of Bentley, who had room for only two cans in his car.

The house the Pecks lived in then still remains in the valley. The summer months were always filled with happy memories when all the family were home. The two girls, Pauline and Rose, both school teachers, were home for the holidays; Jack, finishing his high school in Coaldale, would be on vacation also.

In 1940 Mr. Peck decided to go back to his barbering in Coaldale, possibly finding farming in this country a little harsher than in Europe, and also missing his old friends.

Albert and Jack combined forces and carried on farming together. They bought an N8 Ford tractor from Parks of Lacombe. Pauline, always being the big sister, would come and help them when she could. In 1943, due to ill health, Albert had to leave the farm, while Jack would work there during the summer months. Jack and Art Wigmore bought a six foot combine in partnership in the early forties. The grain was sold to Prevo elevator operated then by Jim Park.

Albert was employed by CFCN at their transmitter at Strathmore. On holidays he would help Jack on the farm. The favorite trick of the Peck boys was to



Pauline and George Peck, taken at Coaldale, 1936.



Brush cutter on the Peck farm, 1942.



On the road into the Peck farm. Otto Tettolowsky and Harry Fisher, the cream man.



Rose and Jack Peck in the Blindman Valley, 1941.



Albert Peck breaking the hay field in the Blindman Valley, 1942.

stack up all the dirty dishes, then invite their girl friends over for a meal. Naturally the dishes were all cleaned by “guess who”, if anyone wanted something to eat.

After Jack finished university the farm was once more rented out to neighbors. There was always one big visit each year from Mr. and Mrs. Peck to see the farm. This would be on the long week end in September, Labor Day. He would come to see the farm he loved so much. This annual visit was carried on until the last September he was living in 1967.

Meanwhile there were marriages in the family. Rose married Freeman Lofgren of Wetaskiwin, now farming in Camrose. They had two sons, Douglas and Dwane, living in Calgary and Edmonton respectively. Albert married Elizabeth Robinson of Innisfail in 1945. They had four sons, Alec, Robin, Dennis, and Bill. The three oldest are married, with only one of the boys not in the Red Deer area, Robin teaches in Halifax. Pauline married Dick Woof of Poplar Ridge in 1945. They farm at Ohaton. Their two sons are both married, Bill in Red Deer and Eddy in Spruce Grove. Jack married Margaret Branscombe

of Olds. They had two girls and two boys, George and John, and Paula and Peggy. All are married but Paula, and live at the west coast. Jack is now a Doctor.

In 1947 Albert and Beth moved to Red Deer where Albert did carpenter work for a year or two, purchasing ten acres of land in North Red Deer. In 1950 he took a nursing course and joined his wife who was nursing at what is now Michner Centre. Red Deer was expanding rapidly, so they sold their remaining seven acres to Mustang Acres and built a new house on the Peck farm which they had purchased from the estate following Mr. Peck's death. Mrs. Peck passed away at the Bethany Home in Camrose in 1978. She had spent the last few years here to be near her daughters, Rose and Pauline, living most of the time with Pauline until she needed constant nursing care.

At present Albert and Beth, and son Bill live on the farm, although they still work in Red Deer. Recently they celebrated their thirty-fifth wedding anniversary having many of their friends and neighbors in to make it a very happy occasion for them.

by Elizabeth Peck

William and Louise Pickering

N.W. ¼ sec. 13, range 1, township 39 west of 5th.

William Pickering was born January 22, 1912 in Red Deer, the eldest son of Robert and Mabel (Southall) Pickering. He has lived on this farm all his life. He started school in the old Norma school but went to Durham when it was built. He was a member of a young peoples group in the Rainy Creek district and from all accounts they had fun! He enjoyed playing ball and hockey. One cold day, the Pickering boys and some others from the team got their old Chev Touring and drove down to Shady Nook where a hockey game was scheduled. They got there, cleaned the ice, then waited and waited, but the opposition never showed! Some of them had to run behind the car on the way home to keep their feet from freezing.

Bill has always liked horses and took good care of them. He took pride in a job well done in the field, back when all the machinery was pulled by horses — sometimes six head to handle at once. He gave me his saddle horse (I like horses too) before we were married so how could I refuse when he proposed!

We were married on November 16, 1941 in my home. I was Louise Hollingstad of the Evarts district. We met when I stayed to help my aunt, Mrs. John Sjare, who lived on the next road west of the Pickerings. The entertainment in those days were the whist drives and dances at Norman and Durham on Friday nights and to the show at Sylvan Lake on a Saturday night followed by an ice cream sundae! Our mode of transportation was his 1928 Graham Paige.

Our first house had been built by the O'Mara's, the previous owners of this quarter section. After the Pickerings bought the place in 1929, the house was used for a granary. However it was moved over by the road and made livable, we thought, and this was our home for twenty-six years. By the time five children had blessed our home we were a bit crowded so we "raised the roof" so to speak and built on two rooms. In 1967 we bought a house that had been used as a demonstrator home in Red Deer, had it hauled here, and placed on the basement that had been made ready; and presto — instant home! We had the natural gas installed and this, along with the electricity was comfort plus!

Our family and where they are now: Wilson married Phyllis James. She had three children JoAnn, Darin and Travis. They all live at Sylvan Lake. Gary and his wife Nellie live in the Withrow district. They have three children Keith, LouAnn and Nadine. Elaine married Art Oldford and they make their home in Lacombe. They have two children Douglas and Sherri.



The William Pickering Family — Wilson, Gary, Leslie, Sylvia, Bill and Louise, Elaine, 1979.

Leslie lives in Medicine Hat. He has two daughters, Patricia and Carla, who live with their mother. Sylvia and her son Desmond live in Penhold.

They all attended school in Bentley. Wilson took grades one and two at Durham before centralization. They all did, and still do, enjoy and participate in various sports. I remember well that first year the kids were bussed to Bentley school. We covered every communicable disease you could imagine. The last one would just recover when the first one was down with something else!

Our nearest neighbors of course were the Pickering folks, and many are the footsteps on the plank across the ditch over to see "Gram" Pickering.

We attended the Rainy Creek United Church until it's closure and now are members of the Bentley United Church.

I think you could say that Bill Pickering stays with a job. Thirty years ago he started working on sale days at the auction mart in Red Deer — he is still there. He was honored to be asked to cut the ribbon at the official opening of the new auction mart (Burnt Lake) this January, 1980. In 1951 he took on the job of linesman for the Aspelund Mutual Telephone Co. and stayed with that until it went underground twenty years later. These are in addition to his life of farming. He and his brother Norman farm together.

As for me, I'm known around the neighborhood as being sort of carefree and somewhat careless; and have been known to start the odd "innocent little fire just to tidy up around the place! On one of these occasions I had the whole famiy, including the company visiting with Gram Pickering, all out fighting fire in their Sunday best! I know brother Henry's suit was never the same again and I wonder if the chicken's in the brooder house realized they came within a foot of becoming fryers before their time! Another time, many years back, I decided the attic must be cleaned up. So I dropped boxes and bags of junk from the upstairs window, and Wilson and Gary had been elected to cart it off to a designated spot where it was to be set afire. Well the boys were taking a "break" and were sitting cross legged on an old rail fence not far from the fire reading something of interest they had found during their task, when all of a sudden there was a series of minor explosions. I looked out the window to see the boys picking themsleves up off the ground and running for cover — there had been some rounds of dynamite caps in one of the boxes! (Besides housecleaning, I like to sing too!)

This has been and still is a great community in which to live. We are glad to be here!

P.S. Louise not only likes to sing, she has a lovely voice, and gives so generously when asked to sing at weddings, funerals or any social event, regardless of how busy she might be at the time. She also spends many hours entertaining or singing with the Senior Citizens' Club at Bentley.

William and Emmie Pickering

William Woodfin Pickering was born in Poulton Cheshire, England on July 18, 1873. He was the eldest son of Robert and Harriet (Woodfin) Pickering. He came to this country soon after the turn of the century. He worked for a while for Scotty McPherson. McPhersons were one of the first to homestead

in the Sylvan Lake area. They later moved to Victoria, B.C. Will then served as a deputy sheriff and game warden out around Benalto and Evarts before he took up a homestead in this district on Township 30, range 1, Sec 14 west of the 5th. He lived in a log shack that had been built the previous year by Will Guellers in the S.E. corner of the quarter, by the spring. Will had married Emmie before coming to Canada but she didn't come until after he was settled on his homestead. They were married in Prestatyme, England on March 26, 1901. Her name was Emily Oliver. This information was found in an old Bible, bearing Emmie's name. She was of Spanish origin. They started their life here together in the little log shack with no floor. Their first crop was reaped off a two acre field that had been spaded by hand!

Will acquired some horses and ponies and had plans to raise ponies for sale, but this venture failed when his horses were not allowed by law to roam the range. They both loved horses and Emmie spent many hours riding her pony, Dick. They had a cow or two and some chickens. They left here for a year or so and went to work for a Judge east of Red Deer. By this time Will's brother Harry had bought the quarter adjoining Will's, so Will and Emmie returned to live with Harry's while the brothers built a house for them on their place. This would be about 1917. Their neighbors included the Kelso's, the Daincords, Webbers, Fouchets. Entertainment was pretty well all "home made" at house parties with the nieghbors. After the schools were built, box socials were held and enjoyed by all.

Emmie spent a while in Red Deer taking in boarders to supplement their income. It was during this time that Will decided to increase the chicken flock and was coming home from Webbers with a crateful of hens, and a couple of calves too, when his sleigh hit a drift and turned over. The horse broke loose and took off. When the Webbers saw this horse in full harness run into their yard, they said "Oh, there's been an accident!" They caught the horse and went down the road to find Will lying with a back injury. They took him to their home and cared for him until he was well. If you are wondering about the hens and calves, well Henry Webber rescued the bewildered lot and cared for them until their new owner could return home.

One winter both Will and Harry were suffering with toothache and had nothing to kill the pain, so they put a flake of lye in the decayed tooth. They discovered it wasn't a good cure as they both got badly burned mouths!

Emmie took sick with cancer in the fall of the year and suffered at home until the following July 14, 1924 when she died at the age of thirty-nine years.



Emmie Pickering with her saddle horse, Dick.



Will and Emmie Pickering in Alberta, about 1909.

Mrs. Riis must have been a blessing to Emmie when she came and nursed her through the last stages of the illness. Will continued to live on the farm by himself. He was fond of animals and always had a dog and several cats that he shared his meal with.

Clearing the land went slow and so in 1925, during the summer, Will hired some Indians to do some brushing for him. All his work and travel was done by horses as he never owned a car or tractor. John and Louise Pickering lived with him for a year



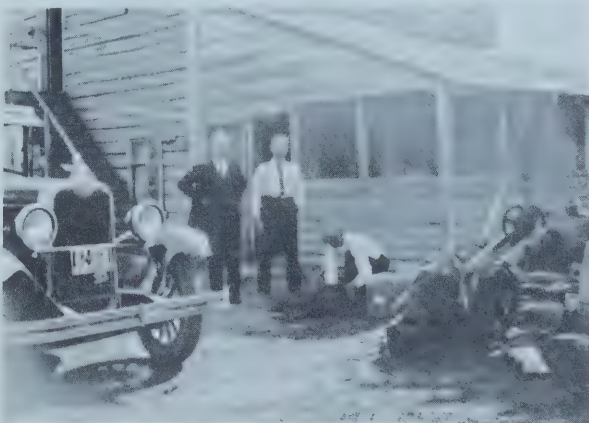
Breaking land: Harry Pickering, Will Pickering on the sulky plow. Note the mule making up the foursome of horse power.

(1944-1945) to help him with his farming. He took one trip. He went to Hammond, B.C. to visit Art and Gladys Pickering in 1946 and on out to Victoria to see his old friends the McPhersons. When he wasn't able to care for himself any longer he was taken into the home of this brother Bob. He died March 18, 1949 at the age of seventy-six years.

Will and Emmie had no children. He left his farm to his namesake — his nephew, William Pickering Jr., who still owns it. We call it "Uncle Will's" of course. We stand and look across the cultivated land, with only a corner of trees where the old house stands and try to visualize a little two acre field with a little log shack by a spring, lost almost in a sea of timber. What a challenge for this young couple from Cheshire, England!

Henry and Catherine Pickering

Henry (called Harry) was born in Poulton Cheshire, England on June 27, 1876. He was second son of Robert and Harriet Pickering. He came to Canada in April 1911. Arriving in Edmonton, he got a job as a carpenter. He worked as a finisher on the



Bill Redpath, William Pickering Sr., Harry Pickering. The old log house built with no nails. It originally had birch bark shingles.



Harry Pickering, Bill Redpath, Arthur Pickering and the old log barn in the background.



Harry and Catherine Pickering, 40th wedding anniversary, Sooke, B.C., 1953.

MacDonald Hotel and also on the University of Alberta building.

In 1913 his sweetheart from Chester, England followed him out to this country. Miss Catherine Johnson was born on March 3, 1875. Everyone called her Kitty. On her arrival she stayed with her brother Tom Johnson of Nanton, Alberta. She and Harry were married in Calgary on June 2, 1913. They lived in Edmonton until 1916 when they moved to the Sylvan Lake area and bought the N.W. quarter of Sec. 14, Township 39 from Jule Morit. A Finnish couple, Mr. and Mrs. Wartnau (probably not spelled correctly) had lived on the place but had moved to a settlement east of Alix. They had built the log house that Harry and Kitty moved into. The logs in this house were all hewed, with dove tailed corners. The logs were drilled and pegged every six feet. Peat moss was used to chink the logs. Mrs. Wartnau had packed this for five miles on her back from Burnt Lake. The ceiling beams were grooved and fitted with hewed planks. Four inches of soil was used for insulation. The rafters were poles all pegged with wooden pegs. Sheeting was hewed poles and birch bark was used for shingles. There was not one nail used in building the house.

Harry and Kitty worked hard clearing the land with axe and grub hoe. Kitty would pile the brush and burn it as Harry cleared the land. They had no children. When the Robert Pickering boys were old enough, they each had a stint at working for "Uncle Harry", and Aunt Kitty too, as there was always lots of silver to polish! It was tradition for the Pickering clan to go to Harry's for Christmas dinner and Aunt Kitty's plum pudding was delicious!

They raised barred rock chickens and one time purchased the champion rooster at the Edmonton Fair for twenty-five dollars. People said they were crazy but they sold setting eggs for five dollars a setting. However a coyote soon had a good meal of their prize bird! They sold eggs for many years at a good price. One day Harry and Will went to town with a load of pigs to market and stopped "at the pub for a fin". They were singing at the top of their voices coming home and Kitty heard them. They stopped at Will's House to have some tea and eat something to sober up. She didn't wait, but walked up there to see what was going on. From that day on Kitty always went along to town.

They lived in the log house until 1938 when they built a new frame house. It included electric lights, indoor plumbing and a rock fireplace. But Harry's health started to fail him and they decided to sell the farm in 1946. Carl Koots of Sylvan Lake bought it. It is presently owned by the Guenthers.

Harry and Kitty moved to Sooke, B.C. on Vancouver Island. They bought two lots with a two bedroom house. He made a bowling green on the one lot and they enjoyed many friendly games with the neighbors.

Catherine Pickering died November 20, 1955 at the age of eighty. He lived there by himself until 1969 when he became ill. He spent some time in the hospital and then with his nephew and wife, Art and Gladys Pickering of Haney, B.C.

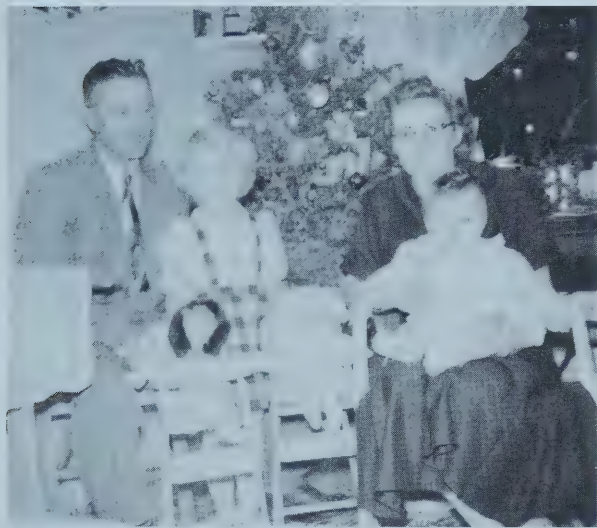
His health improved so he returned to Sooke and surprised everyone by getting married at ninety-four to Rosalie Pearson. This marriage only lasted a few months. When he became sick again and unable to manage alone he was taken again to the Art Pickering home.

He died on December 4, 1971 at the age of ninety-five years. He and Catherine are buried in the Sooke cemetery near their home on Vancouver Island.

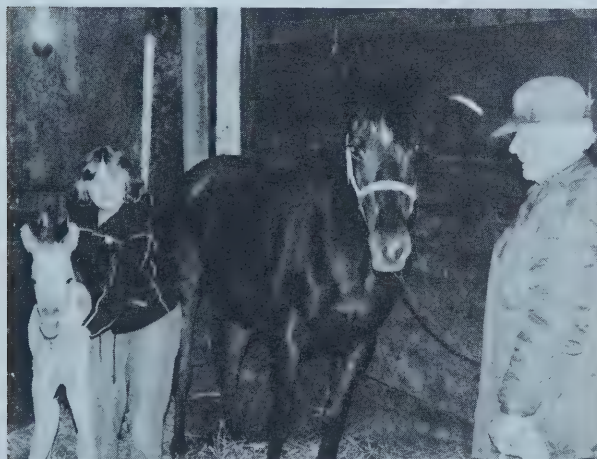
Might add this bit of humor showing Old Harry's wit at ninety-three years - his home in Sooke was across the road from the shopping centre. One night he heard a noise so opened the window to see two men trying to break into the store. He called out to them and said "Hey wait a minute, I'll call the police and they'll come and help ya!"

Henry and Lyla Pickering

We live on the SW ¼-26-39-1-W5 which was Hudson Bay land in 1900. Mr. Russel Heenen leased the land from the Hudson Bay Co. as it had a great deal of hay on it, but that year a terrible hail storm went through the district completely destroying the hay crop.



Henry and Lyla Pickering with Lynn and JoAnn, 1956.



JoAnn and Henry Pickering with Ginger and Tawny.

Mr. Marie Gulion Balou purchased the quarter from the Hudson Bay, the date unknown (1905-1910). He had come from France and had some knowledge of oil, so he bought with the intention of drilling on it. He formed a company but they were unable to raise enough money to drill for oil so he gave up the venture and returned to France. It would seem the oil companies did not agree with him as no oil exploration has ever been done on the quarter.

Mr. Balou later sold the quarter to Robert (Guy)



Henry Pickering and Lavern Park stacking bales with a bale elevator.

and Sara Erskine who had come from USA. They farmed it for several years before selling it to his brother John Miner Erskine about 1923. They farmed it until 1944 and we purchased it in 1945. There was a small log shack on it, built, we think, by Mr. Balou. It was in this shack the Lofgren family lived when they first came from Stavely, Alberta to this district.

I was born in this district on September 23, 1915, the third son of Robert and Mable Pickering. I took all of my education at Durham School which was just across the road from where we now live. I was a real sport fan and loved to play ball and hockey. On June 23, 1946, I married Lyla Johnson, the youngest of five children of Fred and Lena Johnson of the Pine Hill District, nine miles south of Sylvan Lake. They had arrived in this district in the late 1980's.

My (Lyla's) mother was born in Iceland, coming to Canada at the age of five years. Dad was born in Gaida, North Dakota of Icelandic parents in 1885. After coming to Canada as a young man he married Lena Illugeson in 1909 and moved to the homestead in the Pine Hill District where they farmed until moving to Sylvan Lake where they retired.

There was much work to be done on the farm. With three boys, hired men, and their own threshing machine there was always a threshing crew around. When time permitted I would take my horse for a good swift run or go over to my grandmother's, Mrs. Gudfinna Johnson, for some of her great sugar cookies. Being a bit younger than my brothers, I had to polish their shoes and press their pants, and do all sorts of favors to get them to take me to dances, etc. I loved dancing, horseback riding, and playing soft ball.

I lived for a time in Calgary, was married there,

and had a son George. Later we came back to the country where I kept house for my brother Gordon. George was very mechanically minded. At the age of five years he could recognize what neighbor was going by, by the sound of the tractor. George was the cause of a big search one day. He had been playing outside when I missed him. There was a lot of bush around the house, so after frantically searching with no results we went to a near-by school to see if they had seen him. The teacher and pupils joined in the search, followed by many neighbors on foot and horseback. Finally we found him across the road. He and his dog had been following a rabbit.

When Henry and I were married at Sylvan Lake by Rev. Ian MacSween, Gladys Woods, cousin of the bride, and William Pickering, brother of the groom accompanied us. The sun did shine that day, but it had been a very wet spring and, with very few gravelled roads, there was lots of mud to travel through. Needless to say, after the rehearsal, we got very stuck in the mud and didn't get home till the wee small hours of the morning. There was such a line of muddy shoes in the porch, I can still see them. Some of the girls took off their shoes and walked in the mud.

There was much scurrying around in the morning to get ready for a wedding in the early afternoon. However we somehow arrived back in Sylvan Lake, and Gladys and I went to the hotel to change. We were so tired from the night before, and so nervous we got the giggles. We finally made it to the church on time. My sister-in-law, Kay Johnson, had gone down to the basement of the church for a box of things and stepped into about a foot of water, the basement was flooded. The reception was at my parent's house, nine miles of mud. Dad had a tractor ready to pull people through, but we had a good set of chains, borrowed from my brother Kris and went through without any trouble. Everyone arrived for the reception, but it was quite late when we set out for Calgary. At Penhold the car lights went out, so we spent our first night at the Penhold Hotel. In the end we spent a lovely honeymoon in Banff even though car repairs took some of our money which we hadn't planned on.

With the help of friends and family we built a small house, to be used later as a garage, but which we lived in for many years. Dad gave me a cow, Henry had a cow, and as we acquired more we started shipping cream, changing to shipping milk. I helped where I could with the animals, and drove the tractor on the baler and binder. I was active in the local United Farm Women's Organization, being president and director at times. I canvassed for cancer and the

UFA, winning a trip to Ottawa for signing up the most UFA members. Henry and I enjoyed that trip.

When the children were in school I worked at the lunch counter at Sims Auction Mart. Then worked as a ward aid in the Bentley Hospital where I have been employed for ten years.

On February 17, 1951, a winter of much snow and wind, Dianna Lynn was born. Because of road conditions I spent two weeks in Red Deer with some good friends, Mr. and Mrs. Einar Stephenson. She was well worth the wait. We came home through a tunnel of snow, in some places the drifts were so high we couldn't see over them. After taking her schooling in Bentley Lynn worked for a year in Edmonton before taking Education at Red Deer College and Edmonton University. She was a member of 4-H, taught Sunday School, took tap dancing, and was active in sports, receiving a sports award in high school. After teaching one year in Red Deer she married Dave Yakimetz and they have two children, Scott and Lara.

We had some good years of crops, but many years were wiped out with hail. The dairy cows helped us as many cans of milk Henry lifted.

On May 7, 1955, JoAnn was born, the weather co-operating much better. Dr. Weaver came in and told me I had another little "tow head", but when the nurse brought her in she had a very dark curl on top of her head. I was sure she wasn't ours but we kept her and haven't regretted it. She took her education in Bentley, moving to Lacombe when the Bentley School burned. She was always interested in horses, and took figure skating. She was a help to her Dad in doing chores and caring for the animals. When she got a horse of her own she trained it for gymkhanas and shows. For about ten years our summer Sundays were spent at one of these. She has won over one hundred trophies, plaques, and ribbons; also the Central Alberta High Point Trophy for her age group nine years in a row. Due to her horse's illness she retired from the shows, but still enjoys riding. She is now raising colts from her gymkhana horse as well as hairdressing in Red Deer.

We are staunch supporters of all the Co-ops, selling all produce through co-ops and supporting all co-op retail stores. Henry was secretary of the Farmer's Union for several years, and for the Durham School for the last few years before it was closed when schools were centralized, and he is still a member of the Blackfalds REA Board.

History of John Pickering written by John and Louise

I was born in the old log farm house on September 26, 1913, the second son of Robert and Mabel Alice Pickering. Our mother passed away on April 1,

1921, so we four boys and one sister were a lot for Dad to care for.

I started my schooling in the 'old' Norma school, Willie and I together, riding on our horse Rex. I remember one day I was riding and Willie was walking and we saw a lynx. It didn't take Willie long to climb on and we lost no time in getting home. The rest of my schooling I had at Durham school, completing my grade IX. We spent many happy days and had fun playing ball with our fellow students: Lofgrens, Reiswigs, Riis, Tatlocks, Spychers and Zimmermans.

I remember very well the year I was thirteen years old. I was practising high jump at home, when I broke my knee cap. Dad took me to Dr. Naasmith at Sylvan Lake with the horses and sleigh. Having no wire to wire the knee cap together, Dr. sent us to Red Deer. We arrived there at eleven o'clock at night, the poor horses pulling the sleigh on dirt as all the snow had melted in town. I stayed three weeks in the hospital as my knee had infection and proud flesh developed. But I was lucky as my knee has been fine.

We worked hard clearing land and digging up stumps, but we had our fun times playing ball with neighboring teams. We also enjoyed card parties and dances at Norma and Durham schools. Fishing in the summer in the rivers and creeks was another favorite pastime, as well as playing hockey in the winter.

Six boys at home meant that some of us had to leave as we all couldn't live on there. So I went west to Leslieville in the fall of 1935. After working around the districts, I managed to save forty dollars, and with that Louise LeBihan and I went to Red Deer and on December 30, 1939, we were married in St. Lukes Anglican Church by Rev. Canon Cripps.

We bought the N.E. 36-40-5 near the Leafland school and farmed there. We were living there when our eldest daughter Mabel Yvonne was born in the Bentley hospital on March 3, 1941.

In April, 1945 we moved down to Sylvan Lake with Uncle Will. While there our son David John was born in the Eckville hospital on July 3, 1945. We stayed there only a year, and returned to Leslieville, where we purchased two quarters from Reg Mason, east of Leafland school. We were happy there, working hard, and on May 29, 1951, our youngest daughter Myrna Elizabeth Anne was born at the Eckville hospital.

That summer I was "laid up" for awhile having hurt my knee playing ball.

Nature was again against us that year and we left our farm as that was the fourth year we were hailed out. We moved to Leslieville and the land we had there was hailed out just like a new ploughed piece of land. We worked in Allan Scotts Meat Market from



John and Louise Pickering and their family, David, Mabel and Myrna. Taken on their 40th wedding anniversary.



John Pickering, 18 years old, with his horses.

May until October and really enjoyed that. We took over so Allan could have a few months off to be on his farm.

I went to work on the Government Bridge gang after Scotts and worked there all winter. But my family missed me, especially David, so I decided I must have work with my family with me. I applied for a job on a dairy farm, MacFarlan Bros., at Red Deer. They hired me and we moved to Red Deer then on May 21, 1954.

All of our three children took their schooling at Riverglen and L.T.C.H. school.

I worked for MacFarlanes for nine years until they sold their dairy.

I then applied for a job at the Red Deer Public School where I was a custodian. I then worked in the maintenance department, where I worked until I had to retire in June, 1977.

I had heart surgery in July 25, 1977 and with doctors orders, retired from work. I am at present enjoying retired life, curling with the senior citizens; and Louise and I have enjoyed discing, carpet bowling and now lawn bowling. We did enjoy square dancing before my surgery; going many places to dance and regularly to Penhold, as we belonged to the Carpenter Square Dance Club where we are life members. We also belong to Central Alberta Pioneers Old Timers Association and the Golden Circle. We also enjoy playing cards in the district.

Last December 30, our three wonderful children had a surprise fortieth anniversary. It was a wonderful event and we were so proud of our children, and so pleased to have so many of our relatives and friends make it such a happy occasion.

Our oldest daughter Mabel married Murray Pike November 7, 1959, and they reside in Blackfalds. They have three childre, Connie Marie who will be eighteen years in August. We were so proud to be at the happy occasion of her graduation from Lacombe High School on June 27, 1980. She is accepted at S.A.I.T. this fall, going through for Computor Science. Sheldon, their son, is sixteen years old and still attending Lacombe High and working for Mac-Cosham's Moving during summer. Lorelei is their youngest daughter and will be eleven years old in September, and attends school in Blackfalds. Mabel is head Laboratory technician for Dr. Kasper's Labs in Red Deer and Murray is in his third year apprenticeship with Cunningham Electric.

David, after his school, joined A.G.T. working as a linesman, then splicing, and is now employed there as outside Plant Engineer. David married Sharlene Von Hollen on December 3, 1971. They have a daughter Rhonda seven years old and a son Kelly fourteen (from a previous marriage of Sharlene's) David has been active in coaching the Work Wearhouse Team, to winning the Automotive Trophy last year. They have their home in Red Deer.

Mryna, our youngest daughter, graduated with a B.A. on June 4, 1972. She married Derrik Ironside of Blackfalds, who has a B.Sc. They now reside in Medicine Hat where Mryna is employed at the County Culture Learner Center and Derrick has a store "Pipe and Paper" in the new mall.

One of the highlights of life was when we went to

visit Mryna and Derrick in Africa, where they taught there in Malawi. Little did we think, when we took up about Africa in our geography lessons, that one day we would see Africa. Half way around the world! We also took a trip to Disneyland four years ago, Hawaii three years ago, Paulsho, Washington two years ago and to Mesa, Arizona last January, 1979. We hope that our health keeps up and we may be able to go on some more trips, God willing!

Looking back over the years I now realize the different eras of farming I have been through. First of all Dad had two oxen, Spot and Red, then more horses, the steam engines, to the gas tractors, deisel and now propane. In the beginning we just had coal oil lamps and candles, then Alladin lamps, gas lamps and finally electricity.

Norman Pickering by Louise Pickering

Norman, son of Robert and Elizabeth Pickering, was born on June 9, 1927. He has lived all his life on the home farm, NE ¼-14-39-1-W5. He took his schooling at Durham, his first teacher being Miss Holten. He then attended Olds Agriculture School for two years and has been a farmer ever since. He, with his brother William, farm a section of land —



Norman Pickering driving his big brother Billie; a regular pleasure for Norman.

and there have always been pigs! It is not unusual to see Norman, hard hat on his head, and pitch fork in his hand, chasing "ornery" pigs. (From my vantage point here across the road I notice at times the air is a "little blue" when the pigs don't co-operate!).

His interest in sports is widely known. He has a table full of trophies for curling, plus many prizes he has won — for his “hope chest”, he says. He played ball for many years, followed by coaching, and now he helps the players out by umpiring for them. He also played hockey right through to the old-timers, and is still an ardent hockey fan. He still likes to go golfing and fishing with his friends. In 1978 he bought a new half ton truck and drove to London, Ontario to pay a surprise visit on his many cousins there. He enjoyed fooling them by pretending to be a salesman when he arrived at their homes. Norman has had a hearing handicap all his life but accepts it without complaint.

After all his brothers had left the “nest” and his father died Norman stayed at home with his mother, and I can personally vouch for the good care and concern he always gave her, especially in her later years, making it possible for her to live at home, where she wanted to be.

Robert Pickering Jr.

Robert (Bob), son of Robert and Elizabeth Pickering of the Prevo district, was born in Bentley September 19, 1931. He took his first six years of schooling at Durham which was 2 miles from home. If the horse was in the field he and his brothers would ride, if not they walked. He remembers times when they had ridden to school and Mom had given them milk in a sealer for lunch. Sometimes the lid would loosen on the way leaving them with soggy sandwiches.



Durham Ball Team, 1955. Back Row, L. to R.: Lyle Reiswig, Doug Keith, Ray Schmidt, John Sjare, Orville Van Slyke, Jim Ward, Louis Maga, Bud Zimmerman. Front Row, L. to R.: Fred Schmidt, Bob Pickering, Glen Thompson, Norman Pickering.

When Durham School closed Bob went to Aspelund School, four miles from home. He was interested in sports and played ball with the Durham club for a good number of years. He was also a great favorite of the younger set, about ten years and under. He seemed fond of these kids, and when they saw

Bob coming they were all set for a roll on the floor or just fun and games. They would even take his teasing and enjoy it. He was missed when he left the farm in 1957 and went to work at Sylvan Lake for Jack Goodey at Lakewood Service.

In November of that year he married Shirley Mannix of Sylvan Lake. They have two sons, Daryl and Darren, and still reside at Sylvan Lake.

The good times Bob remembers of the “old days” were when the family would hook up the horses and go over to the neighbors for a fun night of cards.

Robert Pickering and Family

by Louise Pickering

Robert Pickering was born September 10, 1877 in Poulton, Cheshire, England. He was the third son of Robert and Harriet. He came to Canada in 1911 with his bride, Mabel Alice (Southall) from Ellesmore Port, England. They lived in Calgary for a short while where he worked for McKenzie Seed Co. but for health reasons had to leave the city and find fresh country air. Bob filed a homestead land out in the west country, but when he went to look at it, found it to be mostly swamp. So he came to this area and purchased the N.E. 14-39-1 W5 from Mr. Eldridge. Before Eldridge, the place had belonged to the McMahon family. The log house had been put up in a day by friends and neighbors. And so it was in the log



Mabel Pickering with her first born, William.

house that Bob and Mabel became a part of this community. "Spot" and "Red", a team of oxen, were all they had for work and travel. They had some horses later but the oxen stayed on for several years serving their purpose. They were a challenge for their driver if the flies were bad, taking off with tails in the air and a crooked furrow behind them!

Neighbor Gus Wall cut the grain with a six foot binder that was pulled by horses, then in turn, Bob would do the stooking for Gus. a Mr. Bone would come with his threshing machine. This machine was also powered by horses.

Unlike his brothers Will and Harry who had no children, Bob Pickering did — lots of boys! First there was William, then along came John, followed by Henry and then Arthur. A sister Dorothy was born on August 24, 1919.

Bob took an active part in the two schools, Norma and Durham, being secretary for many years.

Though Mabel had been raised in the city, this farm life soon grew on her. She ran from the cows when she first came but before long had learned to milk them. She loved the animals and seemed to get them to do her bidding. One night when Bob was attending a school meeting, a two year old colt got colic and she had been able to drench the animal herself. She was taken from the family in childbirth on April 1, 1921. The baby, Robert, lived for two days. They are buried together in the Aspelund cemetery. Mabel was thirty years of age.

On November 23, 1923, tragedy struck this fam-



Robert Pickering and his first family of boys: Arthur, Robert, John, William, Henry.

ily again when Dorothy died from burns. The children were playing in a newly threshed straw pile that caught on fire. She died in the Lacombe hospital.

Many are the stories of this family of boys and their Dad batching. The bread was so flat and hard you needed an axe to cut it! Billie, the eldest, would try his hand at baking cookies. The other little rascals would come in and swipe his cookies and run. He could never catch them because they could run faster. Once in his frustration he grabbed the hot stove lid lifter and threw it, hitting one of his tormentors in the back. However, they both lived to tell the tale! In the winter they would often wake up to find snow on their blankets. It had blown through the cracks in the wall. They would make their lunches and trudge off to school. Mr. Wright was their first teacher at Durham and from all accounts, with Mr. Wright you didn't do anything wrong!

Mrs. Webber came and kept house for them for awhile but the boys were just too active for her. "It would scare her to death, watching us running around on top of the buildings", relates John, "we drove her crazy!" Dorothy Duncan came from Calgary to house keep but she left to marry William Craig. They moved to Rutland, B.C. The Gills stayed with them temporarily until they found a place of their own. Mrs. Gill was teaching at Durham at the time. Delbert Krause rented them his house. The boys' uncle Albert Southall came back. He had spent some time with them before, when their mother (his sister) was living. By this time he had married Ellen Brown of Sylvan Lake, so Ellen helped out with the culinary duties while they were there. They moved to Sylvan Lake where he got a job on the railroad for awhile. Later he became an elevator man and they moved to Standard, Alberta, where he spent the rest of his life. Ellen still lives in Strathmore. Their daughter, Gwen, lives in Quebec and they had a son that died at an early age. Of interest perhaps, Albert and Ellen were



The Robert Pickering Family. From tip to tail: Robert Jr., Norman, Arthur, Henry, William, John. The old log house is in the background.



Robert Pickering Family. Willy, Art, Bob and Lizzie, Henry, John, Albert Southall. Front Row, L. to R.: Norman, Bob, Gwen Southall.



Elizabeth Pickering with sons Norman and Robert.

married in a double ceremony with Bertha and Elmer Petro — Bertha and Ellen are sisters.

Back to the story of the little bachelors! On March 24, 1926, Miss Elizabeth Bell Irwin arrived by train from London, Ontario to be greeted by the boys and their Dad. This little lady stayed! The following July 29, she and Bob were married. Ruth and Emil Schmidt stood up with them. And you guessed it — two more boys were born to this family! Norman arriving first and Robert Jr. four years later.

With all the household duties, the cooking and mending that go along with caring for six boys and a husband, the days were long and busy for Lizzie, but no matter how late in the day she finished her work, she would always sit down and write letters to her

family in London. Down through the years many of her relatives came west for a visit and these were most special events. In the fifty-three years she only went back home for two visits. Besides keeping up a regular correspondence with relatives and friends, she had many pen-pals too. She would often remark, “when I first came West, a letter would go for three cents!” She also enjoyed sewing and entered some of her work in the Benalto Fair and in the F.W.U.A. Conferences. She and Bob were members of the F.U.A. for many years and in the earlier years travelled to the meeting by horse drawn vehicles. The meetings were always held on the Wednesday night before the full moon! The Red Cross and the Crippled Childrens Hospital were two more pet projects for Elizabeth. She was an Anglican by faith.

Bob Pickering died suddenly on December 15, 1951 at the age of 74 years. He died in the log house that he had come to so many years before. A house that had been built in a day and served as a home for over sixty years. Norman and his mother lived in it until 1960 when they built a new house and were more comfortable.

On the eve of Elizabeth’s 90th birthday, (a party was in the making) her hip broke and she was taken to hospital. She was never able to return home to live. She passed away on July 15, 1979 at the age of 92 years.

A family of boys needed a mother and she needed a family of boys. Isn’t it good that they got together?

Arthur Pickering

After finishing his schooling at Durham school, he worked for five years for his uncle Henry Pickering on the farm. In the fall of 1940 he left for B.C. as his love, Gladys Wold, formerly of Sylvan Lake, and her folks, Mr. and Mrs. S.O. Wold, had moved to Albior, B.C.

They were married May 28, 1941. In 1942 Arthur entered the armed forces. He served as an instructor in Mt. Warfare until 1945 when he went overseas. Returning to Canada he rejoined his wife, Gladys at Albior, where they had bought a home.

In May 31, 1946 their first son Lawrence was born. In May 4, 1949 a second son Bryan was born.

Arthur worked at the largest Cedar mill in the world. He became rail shipper for some years and then served as local shipper for the last five years, shipping record shipments of 344,400 board feet per day and 4,232,607 feet per month. He retired June 30, 1977 after serving the company for over thirty-five years. A surprise party of over seventy friends gathered to wish Art and his wife Gladys the best in their retirement.

Lawrence worked for the fisheries for two years



Gladys Wold and Art Pickering at Sylvan Lake, 1939.

after leaving school. Then on construction for a year. He worked for Seafan Marina for two years. He married Carol Derosia but after seven years they separated. Lawrence moved to Hammond and is



Gladys and Art Pickering with their two sons, Lawrence and Brian, 1979.



Brian Pickering on stage at Grand Ole Opry, Nashville.

working in the B.C. Forest Prod. sawmill as a boom man.

Bryan went to school at the Jericho School for the Blind and completed grade eleven and twelve in Maple Ridge High. He works as entertainer, singing and playing the guitar and fiddle. He married Darlene Brede in October 1970. They played together and travelled over B.C. from Vancouver to Whitehorse, Yukon. They separated after nine years of married life.

He entered a contest on a "search for talent" by Grande Ole Opry in 1975. He won in B.C. and then went to San Diego and won for the west coast. He was one of the top seven out of twenty thousand that made it to Nashville to play on the Grande Ole Opry.

He cut a few records which have been heard all across Canada.

He is playing and singing in the Fraser Valley around Vancouver at present.

The Henry Peterson Family

Henry Peterson, along with Henry Stone and the Nels Nelson family of Nebraska, U.S.A., arrived in Lacombe September 12, 1902. Henry accompanied Mrs. Nelson and her eight children on the immigration train. Mr. Nelson had arrived a few days prior on a train with the settlers effects. This group had been encouraged to immigrate by letters from a former neighbor, the J. C. Carritt family, who had homesteaded in this part of the country the year before.

Henry Peterson, born in a sod hut at Platte County, Nebraska, October 29, 1880, was the eldest son of

Danish immigrant parents, Hans and Hansena Peterson.

Henry filed homestead claim on S.W. ¼ 32-39-1 W5, about seven miles southwest of the present town of Bentley. This district became known as the Rainy Creek district.

To fulfill the homestead qualifications he constructed a fair size log house, cleared and cultivated the necessary acres of land, and did all things necessary to fulfill the conditions of the Homestead Act. He was issued clear title to this land from the Lands Department October 12, 1906.

During these first years, he and a friend, Ed Begart, worked for early settlers just west of Blackfalds. Two of the families in this district, the Hedemarks and Pete Lowes, treated him as their own, and he looked on them always, as very dear friends. His first cream separator and the windmill that still stands on the old homestead, he purchased through Pete Lowe, back in the early 1900's.

He met and married Alice French, May 17, 1905, together they began building up the farm. Alice was the daughter of William and Sarah French. The French's originally from Redwood Fall, Min., had homesteaded in the Gull Lake area, N.W. ¼ 16-40-28 W4, in 1900. This is now the Cox farm.

In 1906 Henry bought his first land, N.W. ¼ 3-40-1 W5, from John Shorkey. This land was on the Blindman River and is owned and farmed by his grandson Fred Peterson.

In 1916 the quarter just west across the road from the homestead was added to the farm holdings previously owned by Mr. Clare, S.E. ¼ 31-39-1 W5.

By this time a family of six had arrived; Bill, December 1905, Harold September, 1907, Mamie January, 1909 — died September 1914, Ethel May 1912, Lenard June, 1914, Lawrence October, 1916, and in 1917 brand new member was added, a Model T Ford. We were now motorized.

Dad was much interested in property a couple of miles east, in the Blindman Valley proper. Even in those early years he could see the value in it as rich agriculture land. In 1918 the decision was made. The homestead and quarter across the road were sold to William Surratt, and three quarters, two miles east purchased. The homestead of Tom Carritt with buildings, S.W. ¼ 34-39-1 W5 and the half directly across the road west, E. ½ 33-39-1 W5 from Joe Carritt. The move to the new home was made in April, 1919. Murray had arrived in September, 1918, so there were six of us to fit into a small house.

It was a very wet, cold spring, a foot of snow in May. The following fall and winter were cold with much snow. During the next years the half across the road was cleared and cultivated. A Titan tractor was

used for most of the breaking of land, also a threshing machine had been purchased. With a great deal of hard work by Dad and his sons a very viable agriculture unit was built up. Another parcel of land was added, S.W. ¼ 35-39-1 W5. This is now owned by Josh and Rod Wilkins.

Three more had joined the group; Delmar, December, 1921, Ruth September, 1923 and Alberta, July, 1925. We were now nine. A lovely new home replaced the little old one in 1928. There were no more deserving people than my parents, to have a new home.

By now the family was beginning to spread out. Bill had gone to work for the municipality, Harold farmed on his own.

During these years, Dad had served on the Carritt school board, being instrumental in getting a new school building. He also served as councillor for the Municipality of Lorne until his health began to fail. The boys took over much of the farm work and life became much easier for our parents in the late thirties.

Dad died in June, 1946. Mom moved to Sylvan Lake where she and Bert lived until Mom's death in September, 1951. They are buried in the Bentley Cemetery.

A bit on the family.

Bill spent a few years in construction, owned a garage in Bentley, sold it and set up a Massey Ferguson agency and shop. This he retained until his retirement. He married the former Florence Kenner of Rimbey and they have one daughter, Margaret. Bill died in 1975.

Harold married Rea Chown of Bentley. They met at a dance in the Durham school. Harold and Rea farmed southwest of Bentley and have a family of two, Janet and Gary. They retired and now make their home in Bentley.

Ethel and Carl Raabis farmed south of Bentley for a couple of years and then bought land west of Bentley. Here they raised a family of five; Norman, Carole, Alfred, James and Patricia. Ethel and Carl are now retired and live in Bentley.

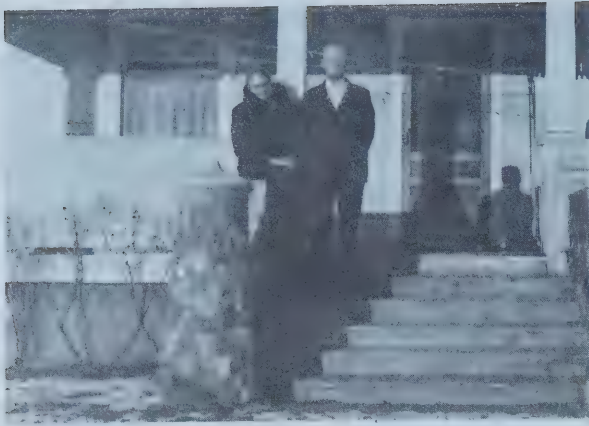
Lenard farmed for a number of years two miles north of the home place. Selling out he lived in Regina for a number of years, retiring to Rimbey in 1974. He died in September 1976.

Lawrence farmed and worked in Saskatchewan for a number of years before moving to Calgary, where he died in 1973.

Murray's history is in the book.

Delmar bought and has lived on the home place since his father's death. He has two sons; Michael and Doug.

Ruth is Mrs. H. Trout and has lived in Edmonton



Henry and Alice Peterson, 1939, at their home built in 1928.



The Henry Peterson Family, 1941.

for many years. She has a son and daughter; David and Sandra.

Alberta was married to Albert Seeman of A. and S. Drilling, a seismic outfit. She moved with her husband around the oilfields until their daughter and son; Karen and Les were of school age. Bert and Al settled in Calgary where they lived until their deaths, Bert in October, 1969, her husband Al April, 1970. Their daughter Karen is at present a nurse in the Red Deer Auxiliary hospital. Les is married and lives in Bentley.

Ben & Mina Reiswig (Durham)

Ben was born November 14, 1903 in Parkland, South Dakota. There were three daughters Hulda, Bertha and Sadie. The family left South Dakota and lived for a while in North Dakota but they decided to come to Alberta. They had all their possessions shipped, and they boarded the train that would bring them to a new land. They came to this district in 1919, where they bought sec. 23, Township 39, range 1, west of 5. They built their house on the N.W. quarter.

This house is still being very much lived in. It has stood up well.

The Reiswigs operated a saw mill for a few years. Mary was remembered as being an immaculate housekeeper. The family lost Sadie in 1922 when she died of Scarlet Fever. She was twelve years old. Hulda and Bertha are both presently living in California. Both parents died in California in the early sixties.

Mina was the only daughter born to Dolly and Will Schmidt. Her birth date is May 19, 1909. She and her two brothers Philip and Ralph had all been born in the old log house that was their home, on the east half of sec. 24-39-1-W5. Mina recalls the day that Ralph was born. Emmie Pickering came to be with her mother. She had ridden over on horseback. When baby arrived and all was well, Emmie was going to go home. Mina, who was all of five and one half years old was to go along as far as the gate into Emil Schmidt's and help Emmie open and close it. As she was walking along she had a bad case of hic-ups. All of a sudden Emmie jumped off her horse and grabbed at Mina. "Scared me to death" says Mina "but the hic-ups were gone!" A good old fashioned cure!

Mina took grade I to IX in the Aspelund school and then went to Calgary for grade X. She took piano



Ben and Mina Reiswig on their wedding day, 1929.



Ben Reiswig and his first tractor, 1929.



Ben Reiswig hauling logs for the winter's wood, 1927. Three and one-half cords.

lessons from Mrs. Wigmore and Mrs. Soderman, riding there and back every week on horseback.

She remembers being quarantined in her room from December to March 1922 with scarlet fever. They were in the new house by this time and the old house was still standing close by, so Ralph would climb up on it and visit with his sister through the window.

Where did Ben meet Mina? Some young people had gathered at the Riis home. They were tossing a ball around and this got the "ball rolling" that led to four years courtship for Ben and Mina! However the wedding bells rang for them on November 6, 1929.

They lived in Kelsos' house for the first three months while Findley was away in Scotland. Then they built a small house on the S.E. quarter of the Reiswig section. They were given a dozen chickens and a cow for a wedding present. They bought some horses which all died later with swamp fever. Money was scarce so Ben bought an old second hand tractor to pull the binder. About this time Ben had to have an appendix operation so Mina became adept at operating the farm machinery from that time on. She relates a couple of incidents she had with rakes. She was raking with horses and ran into a bees nest. The horses bolted, broke the tongue and Mina fell into the

rake, rolling along with the hay. Another time she went down to Pickerings on the tractor to get a rake but a goat kept getting up on the seat. She'd get him off but before she could get on the tractor and go, the goat would be back on the seat!

The roads in those days were maintained with a drag pulled by horses. Ben did this job quite often. He did a lot of threshing in the district for years. During the depression Mina remembers selling butter for 9¢ a pound and she made every kind of cheese you could think of.

They have one son, Lyle, born July 2, 1941. He married Irene Mickey of Bowden and they gave Ben and Mina three grandchildren Theresa, Christopher and Joseph.

In 1950 the Reiswigs built a new home and they enjoyed having more room.

In 1963 they sold the farm but they didn't move far away, just over on the next road west, where they built on an acreage.

Bill Bigg, who had come here from Russia, made his home with Ben and Mina for thirty-two years. He died in April 1964.

Mina has given piano lessons for many years, and usually has a big class to perform at each spring recital. Her lunches that go with the lessons are always a treat!

Ben has not enjoyed good health for several years having had a stroke twenty years ago. He is presently in the Red Deer Auxilliary Hospital. He has always enjoyed company and having friends and neighbors around him. When he got his first pension cheque he threw a party for the whole neighborhood!

This couple celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary in November, 1979. Many friends, neighbors and relatives gathered at the Golden Circle in Red Deer to celebrate this occasion with them.



Ben and Mina Reiswig's 50th Wedding Anniversary. Front Row, L. to R.: Chris, Ben, Joe Reiswig. Back Row, L. to R.: Lyle and Ev Reiswig, Mina, Terri Reiswig, Hulda Lobdell, Irene and Rollee Ammeter.

Emmanuel Reiswig

Section 23 Township 39 Range 1 W5 was bought by Emmanuel and Mary Reiswig in 1919 from Mr. Lund. Emmanuel and Mary Reiswig and their family came from North Dakota.



Emmanuel Reiswig and daughters Bertha and Hulda.



Mary (Mrs. E.) Reiswig.



Reiswig's sawmill, 1923. It must have been lunch time.

They cleared land and used some of the timber for lumber as they had a saw mill for a few years. Emmanuel built the house and planted a beautiful willow tree at the back. The house has had several additions but the tree is still growing and over hangs the house.

Emmanuel and Mary had four children; Bernard, Hulda, Bertha and Sadie. They took their education at Durham and the Seventh Day Adventist College in Lacombe.

Ben still resides in the area. Hulda continued her education in Chicago and moved to California where she married. She still resides there. Bertha became a hairdresser, later moving to California, where she married and still resides there. Sadie died at the age of thirteen from scarlet fever, a few days after her friend, Emma Lofgren, who also died of scarlet fever.

Emmanuel sold the north half of the section to B. Tatlock. Ben Reiswig farmed the other half. Tatlocks sold all but twenty-seven acres of the north half to Carlyles.

The other residents of the twenty-seven acres were Tony Menard, B. Byers, Eldon Bruns and W. Hammond.

Both Emmanuel and Mary died in California.

Charles and Alice Rick and Family by Aural (Rick) Fitch

Charles and Alice Rick were married in 1889 and lived on a farm in Minnesota, U.S.A. where six of their nine children were born. These were Peter, Chester, Ruby, Pearl, Elurn, and Ross.

In July, 1903, a bad hail storm took all their crop so they loaded everything and came to Claresholm, Alberta where they took a homestead. There Opal, Aural, and Amethyst (Amy) were born.

In 1916, because my father needed an operation, they with the four younger children went to Washington, then later, having sold the homestead, to



The Charles Rick Family: Ross, Chester, Pearl, Opal, Peter, Elurn. Front: Aural, Charles and Alice, Amethyst. 1922.

Oregon. But in 1920 we returned, this time to Lacombe, and stayed with my sister Pearl. At that time my father bought our farm, two quarters of land located at the base of the Blindman Hill; the east



The windmill on the Rick farm.

quarter in the Durham district and the west quarter in the Carrit district.

Rumors were that prospects were good in the irrigation country around Brooks, so we went there in 1921 buying two quarters of C.P.R. land. Pearl and her husband Cal Smith lived on the Bentley farm until father rented it to Zipricks. The irrigation farming proved a loss, so in 1924 my father and our belongings returned, with Mother, Amy, and I following a few days later. Father was then 57, Mother 53, I 11, and Amy 9 years old.

A former resident had built a four room, two storey, frame house on the west quarter. Here we lived, bed bugs and all, until my mother said, "Enough of that." We moved out for a week while our house was fumigated with cyanide balls. Later my father added a summer kitchen.

Our teacher at the Durham School was a nice English lady, Mrs. Gill, who had come from England during the first world war by submarine. Often Amy, a friend named Dot Adams, and I would all ride one horse to school. Both Amy and I had missed school due to illness so we were older for our grades than some. Some winter mornings classes would start in the basement by the furnace. When I was in grade seven we changed to the Carrit School. This was a difficult year as we had four different teachers as well as the whooping cough.

School concerts at Christmas were highlights at both schools as were the school fairs when most students had many entries. The fair was held at Sylvan Lake and from here the student with the highest number of points won a free week at the Olds Agricultural College. One year Carrit School entered an art contest for Northern Alberta winning third prize. Along with others, Beatrice Carrit, Amy Rick and I think Almeda Nelson had entries which added to our points. Amy later painted many pictures.

My father farmed with horses. We had the essential machinery such as wagons, hayracks, bobsleigh, a "Bennet Buggy", a model T Ford, and a 1928 Chev touring. Our neighbors did our threshing and there was a mail route from Blackfalds. Henry Petersons lived a half mile north, and Fred Nelsons three quarters of a mile west, but our nearest neighbor, Fred and Charlie Knieper, were within talking distance on the opposite side of the gully and creek. We had a joint stock water tank at the bottom to keep our stock and Charlie's apart. My father had brought a windmill from Brooks which he used to grind grain, saw small trees for wood, and pump water from the creek to the house. If there was no wind we would pump the force pump by hand or carry water up the hill. Dr. Henry of Bentley was our doctor, and a good one.

After taking grades nine and ten at Lacombe

Seventh Day Adventist College I spent six years at home. During that time Amy and I went to Rainy Creek Young Peoples Parties.

My brother Ross and family lived for a time on our farm in a log house he and Father built. While there he made a spinning wheel, copying one owned by Mrs. Riis of the Durham district. This was during the difficult thirties when raw wool cost about three to five cents a pound. Hence they spun and knit mitts, socks, and sweaters.

Opal was married to Archie Bruce from Manitoba in 1933. Later they lived in the log house for four years when their two sons, Bob and Jim, were born, both in the Bentley Hospital. Archie became prominent in the S.P.C.A. at the head office in Edmonton. They are now retired and living in Edmonton.

In 1941, due to arthritis, my parents moved to Lacombe, renting the farm to John Gimbel and later selling to Frank Bloom. No one has lived there since, all the buildings are gone but one granary.

Amy finished grade twelve at Lacombe and married Arnold Hack of B.C., in 1946. They had three children: Merina (De Witt), Calgary, Donovan, and Elaine (Jackson), Williams Lake, B.C. Amy passed away in 1951 with cancer. Her son Donovan also died of cancer leaving two daughters.



Charles Rick enjoying his violin at almost 96 years.

Mother passed away in Lacombe at the age of 83. A short while later Father went to live with his oldest daughter in California. Although his arthritis had kept him in a wheel chair for many years he kept busy making wooden lawn ornaments, toys, helping his son-in-law with honey bees, and playing his violin. He lived to see four generations of male descendents of his own. His mind was clear right to the last when in 1965 he died at the age of 98 years.

I married Russell Fitch of the Centerville District south of Sylvan Lake in 1938. We had seven children: Amy (Schafer), Leo, Mervin, (all born in Bentley Hospital) Raymond (passed away in 1965 at 11 years), Paul, Herbert, and Alberta (Urlache).

My brother Peter died at 83 years, Chester lives in Lacombe and is nearly 89, Ruby (Bosturck) of Portland, Oregon is 87, Pearl (Smith) of College Place, Washington is 85, Elurn of Hope, B.C. is 82, and Ross of Washington, D.C. is 79.

This seems to this local editor to be quite a record.

Murray Peterson — N.W. 34-39-1-W5, S.W. 3-40-1-W5

Murray purchased this half section in 1939 and still calls it home. The first known owner of N.W. 34-39-1-W5 was a man by the name of L. McCulloch. In 1904 E. Begart bought this land. This was sold to John Thierstein. Many people lived here including John Zimmermann, Art Tatlock, Martin Reiter and Bill Begart. The first known owner of S.W. 3-40-1-W5 was William Stidham. In 1904 J. E. Carritt bought this land, later selling it to John Thierstein.

Murray was born Sept. 18, 1918, the seventh child of Henry and Alice Peterson. Murray attended the Carritt School starting at Easter time, April 14, 1925 with teacher Gladys V. Jones.

In May 1939, Murray married Reggal Soderberg of Red Deer. They have two children — Fred who farms 2½ miles south of Bentley. He married Gloria Benson and they have five children. Wendy married Fred Goldring and they have two children. At present they live in Ontario.

For many years Murray played ball and hockey, but gave it up when his son decided to play. In later years he enjoyed curling and fishing.

In the first two years of marriage, the Petersons only had a wagon and horses for travelling; also farmed with horses. The first tractor was an old Hart Parr which needed five gallons of water for every round made in the field.

For many years all entertainment was held in the Carritt and Durham Schools — card parties, school picnics and Christmas concerts. The outdoor skating rink at Rainy Creek saw many a fast hockey game. This all came to an end when the school closed in 1952 and the children were bussed to the Bentley School.

One of the greatest events was the power being turned on in 1948. Since then many changes have been made — many and different household appliances — up to date machinery — sprays and

fertilizers. Even with these changes good friends and neighbors remain on the farms in our district.

Chris and Marion Riis and Family by Inger and Chris Jr.

Our mother and father, Marion and Chris, emigrated from Denmark. Dad came to Blackfalds in 1903 where he purchased a blacksmith shop from Nels Nelson, an early settler in the Carrit district. In this shop Dad was “village smithy” for nine years. Mother came to join him in 1904. Inger, Martha, Chris and Mary were born in Blackfalds. As was the custom then nearly all births were taken care of in the homes.



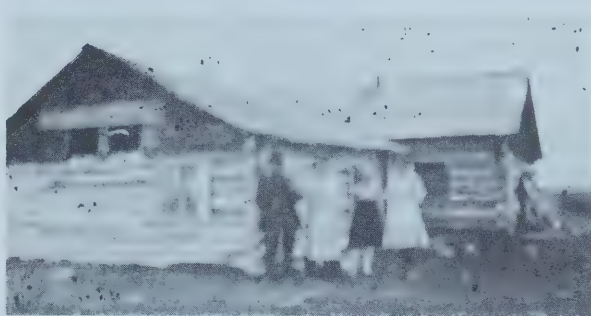
50th Wedding Anniversary: Chris and Marion Riis; Mrs. Peter Cameron in the background.

In 1912 Dad decided he was tired of blacksmith work, as it was hard work with little future, also life on a farm would be much healthier.

We then moved to Aspelund district. Inger being the eldest remembers the trip. “All our worldly goods were loaded on three vehicles, a single-boxed wagon (our own), a hay rack and a democrat, (last two hired). One team and a colt, “Pet”, was ours. Three cows walked along side with two outriders guiding them. The family rode in the democrat that followed in the rear, pulled by a team of mules. I think we left about mid morning.

“The road straight west was a dirt trail at that time with trees and bush growing along side, and here and there a clearing where buildings stood. Finally we came to a small white building with two out-houses at the back in each corner of the lot with a barn in between them, and a horse or two in the yard. This was a school?? Later in the afternoon we came to another school; it must have been recess as many children were lined up on the front step to see our

cavalcade go by. This was to be my new school. A winding road took us around Boode Lake to the top of a hill where we had a panoramic view of the Blindman valley. Here Dad stopped the horses and pointed westward, and, like Joseph Smith when he saw Salt Lake, said ‘That’s the place’. The most I recall seeing were trees and bush. Finally we wound our way down hill, around to the river crossing, and on straight west. Suddenly on top of a little hill we were stopped. Someone came back to tell us that a wagon ahead was mired down and they needed the mules to help their horses pull it out. These mud holes were common in the roads those days. We finally got through, and before long we were home at last.”



The Chris Riis house, 1912. A porch and a milk house were once attached to where they are standing.

“Our new house was a large one made of logs and rough sawn lumber. We had more room than ever before, I even had my own room! We had a pump in the yard so we could use all the water we wanted for mud pies and wading. We had freedom with lots of room and no restrictions . . . Yes, this was fun — till winter. The house was anything but warm; it let in garter snakes in summer and snow in the winter. Next winter we moved into a shack we built which later became a granary.”

“Coming back to the day we moved; while we kids gloated over our new-found home the adults were busy unloading, putting up the stove, and starting a fire to get a meal for all, including the men who had helped us move. My biggest thrill was to see how a cream separator worked. It was to separate cream from milk I knew, but how? In town we always had a cow or two, but the milk always stood in shallow pans in the pantry till the cream rose to the top, when it was skimmed off and kept for churning into butter. After milking time I saw how it worked and was enthralled with the wonder of it all, especially the noise.”

“On the farmstead there was a complete set of buildings for horses, cows, chickens and pigs — all

made of logs and rough lumber. Its location was NW ¼-24-39-1-W5 and had been homesteaded by Rueben Randolph, who had built it up, then gave up and moved to town to take over a business. With all the amenities around you'd know he was no prairie schooner farmer. No, he with some relations had come out from Ontario with a carload of settlers' effects and homesteaded in the valley, proved up their homesteads, and moved on. There was left behind at our place an old mower, a hay rake, a few pots and pans, and some clothing and small articles with which we used to play house. Being the oldest I had to care for my sisters and brother, but I wouldn't have traded it for life in town."

"There was much to learn about animals, both tame and wild. The evening chore was to hunt for eggs from hens who were free to wander as they wished. Where ever there was straw or hay there would be eggs. The cluck of a hen soon told us if she had just laid an egg, or was gathering her flock of baby chicks under her wings. Then there were the cows to bring in for milking; they usually stayed together, but in that thick bush they were hard to find so one always had a bell around her neck. When you were old enough to sit by a cow, hold a pail between your knees and squeeze so the milk went into the pail, you were allowed to help with the milking. This was a status symbol with your peers. Yes, you were growing up then."

"As for the wild animals, there were rabbits aplenty and the first year our fresh meat was rabbit. Here is a quote that expresses my sentiment: 'Rabbit hot and rabbit cold, rabbit young and rabbit old; rabbit tender and rabbit tough; thank you, but I've had enough.' There were also many muskrats, weasels, and coyotes which were trapped, skinned and sold to supplement the meagre income. One incident I will never forget was when Dad skinned a weasel in the kitchen one bitter cold winter evening; the odor could not take second place to a skunk although it is a much smaller animal. The doors had to be opened and Mother kept running outside for fresh air, cursing as she did so. Dad only reminded her this was a valuable skin as it had a black tip on its tail so he had to be careful and couldn't hurry."

"One modern item that had been left was a telephone. We were "the line" as it were, so had many visitors who came to use it."

"We lived in newspaper-lined shack until 1919 when we built our "new house", upstairs and all. This was the house Archie and Sara Carlyle recently replaced with their lovely modern home (1980)."

Chris Jr., the only boy of the family remembers a few incidents when he was in hot water: "One was the time I kicked the lid off the churn. The cream —

precious as it was — spilled and ran down through the board floor into the dug-out cellar below. It seems very amusing now, but not then. A little boy, three years old was locked in the old milk house. Here I was supposed to repent. After what seemed like many hours, I was released and pardoned for my wasteful crime.

"In those early days it was a common practice for a neighbor to drop in quite unexpectedly and stay for a meal. This particular time, I remember, Emil Schmidt had come by. Mother had good homemade soup prepared and Emil stayed for dinner. Being mechanically minded at this early age, I crawled under the table and released the catch on the drop leaf. Of course the leaf dropped and so did Emil's dinner, right in his lap. This time I was sent to the bedroom in disgrace."

"I started school when I was seven years old. Aspelund was two miles over a winding road. In summer we walked barefoot, reserving our shoes for winter wear. My first teacher was Miss Bain. During the four years I attended Aspelund I had seven teachers which reflected a sign of the times; teaching rural school was not easy in those days."

"Durham School District was formed in 1920 to fill the gap between Aspelund, Norma, and Carrit Districts. Our father was one of the first trustees of Durham School, others were Harry Pickering, Emil Schmidt, and Bob Pickering as secretary. When forming a new district many stormy battles took place. Money had to be raised, permission from the Dep't of Education had to be secured, and a host of other red tape dealt with. After eleven months of planning and building the school was opened in January of 1921. Our first teacher here was Mr. E. K. Wright. Another teacher I remember well was Mrs. Gill, a little English lady. After finishing grade VIII, as was customary at that time, I stayed home to help my father on the farm. Work on the farm then, as we all know, was backbreaking — no large machines to do the work. Brush had to be cleared with a team of horses and a block and tackle. The land was then plowed with a breaking plow drawn by four horses. Some of the early neighbors I remember were: Alex Kelso, Fred Daniels, Gus Wall, Charlie Mott, and the Petro's.

"During the winter months of 1926 and 27 I attended Olds School of Agriculture, where I was to learn the best techniques of farming. Subjects included butter and cheese making, beekeeping, animal husbandry, field husbandry, irrigation, botany and entimology. I attended again in 1927 and 28, when I graduated and returned to the farm. Nineteen twenty-eight! Yes, it was a great year — I was a graduate farmer, we purchased our first car, a 1923 Model T, and we had our last fifteen acres of land

broken by a tractor. Benny Reiswig and his father did it for us.

“For a while it seemed everything was going well and farming was beginning to pay off when the “Big Depression” hit. All I had learned at Olds, was almost in vain, as we now had to “eke” out a living as best we could. Dad would work in the blacksmith shop he had set up on the farm, sharpening plow shares for 25 cents, setting a wagon wheel for 75 cents, and shoeing a horse for two bits a hoof. Mother made cheese and sold it for 10 to 15 cents a pound. In this way our “grub stake” would be supplemented. As farmers our stomachs were adequately filled, better than many less fortunates in the city. Today when my wife cooks three or four pork chops and tells me it cost \$4.75, I often think of the time I hauled five — yes, five well finished pigs, 200 pounds each, with the wagon and team seven miles to Bentley, and the sale amounted to \$15.00 — for the five pigs!”



Ken Nelson, Bill Peterson and Chris Riis Jr., 1924.

“The 1930’s were not all work and no play. After the toil of the day I would often relax in the summer evenings, usually at Sylvan Lake. There I might join “the boys” at the bar or take in a dance. Jitney dances were a big thing then. The “Silverstone Seven” was a popular orchestra, and occasionally Mark Kenny and his famous band would play. The refrains of this music drifting across the lake were very romantic on a pleasant summer evening. On one of these occasions I met my wife, Jessy Patterson, in July, 1938. Jessy came from Midnapore, just south of Calgary, but I had scarcely heard of the place. In July 1939 we were married.

“We continued living on the farm. In 1941 Marilyn was born, in March, 1943 Jack added to the



The chicken pluckers: Jessy and Mr. and Mrs. Riis, 1940.



Chris Jr. and Jessy Riis, 1938.



Running water on the farm. Jack and Marilyn Riis and cousin Dorothy Wood.

family tree. We managed to live well enough but there were few frills; these were the war years, with rationing and many other obstacles to success. With Mother, Dad, and us there were six living off one quarter section. Expansion seemed too expensive, even then, so we decided to sell. In the spring of 1947 we sold to Archie and Sara Carlyle, Mother and Dad moved to Sylvan Lake, and Jessy, I, and our wee family went to Leduc.

"I had been a farm boy all my life and was anxious to see the other side of the fence. A new oil field had just opened near Leduc, so there we went to seek our fortune. For about a year we lived in a make-shift abode in the ball park, which Jessy used to call our "castle". Meanwhile Imperial Oil Company were making plans to set up a model town in a barley field situated centrally in the oil patch. I started work as a laborer, but soon graduated to battery operator. While I was at work Jessy would make plans for our new house in the model town.

"In late July, 1948, we moved to the new town site named Devon. This name was chosen because of the Devonian strata formation from which the oil came. We lived in an old garage we had moved in from Leduc. There were only six families there, no water, no power, no store, no postoffice; nothing but mud, noise, and construction. We were true pioneers in a modern age. In early September we moved into our new house which we had been building all summer, a happy day for all of us. The first thing Marilyn and Jack wanted to do was to have a bath in a real tub with running water. The house was very small as the company had rigid standards, and did not consider I was earning enough to afford anything larger. Incidentally, I was getting 95 cents an hour.

"In 1950 we added one more to our family, William Roger. Now our small home was too small for comfort. We immediately started to re-arrange some walls and add some pieces on. We seem to have been changing houses or remodelling them ever since. In August 1966 we moved to Edmonton while I continued to work at Devon. Jessie had been teaching at Holburn School, West of Devon, but when we moved she worked part time with Parks and Recreation in Kindergarten work.

"I was retired in 1973 because of failing health. We moved to Lacombe to retire the following year. We bought an "old, old" house, but in a few years we found our zest for repairing and caring for this type of home was waning, and felt we both would be better in a warmer climate. Somehow we chose Kelowna, where we moved in 1977. We do like it here, but miss our many good friends in Alberta, even if we cannot say the same for those long cold winters.

"In 1960 Marilyn married Grant Fletcher, a wheat farmer near Taber, Alberta, who also does commercial flying for a helicopter company. They have three children, Janine, apprenticing in photography, in Lethbridge, Judy, specializing in Social Services at the Lethbridge College, and David still at home. Jack graduated as an Electronic Technician from SAIT. He spent two years in the far north with the DEW line, three years with CN Telecommunications on Pyramid Mountain, Jasper, and now is with

B.C. Hydro in Vancouver. He married Roberta Robson of that city. They have two children, Aaron and Danielle and live in Ladner, B.C. Roger, after completing High School, worked and travelled a lot. He now works for Selmoe Sales at Stony Plain selling farm machinery.

"Having reached the ripe old age of three score and ten, one begins to realize we are only here for a very short time and one tends to look back to where you have been. The road ahead is short and unknown. Better that we reflect on that long winding trail behind, happily recalling the Blindman Valley, its people, and all other roads that followed. Let us throw the torch to those that are taking over where we left off. Good luck and bless you all!

"Of my sisters; Inger became a Home Economics Teacher, and married a former principal of Blackfalds school, Eric Hale, who was born in India and educated in England. They lived in Edmonton and had three children, Yvonne, Allan, and Lilian. Martha married Frank Minton who worked in a dairy in Edmonton before joining the RCAF during the second world war. Later they moved to Winnipeg where he was salesman for dairy equipment. Frank died a few years ago, and Martha and their son Francis now live in Delta, B.C."

E. F. Schmidt & Co.

In March 1900, Emil Fredric Schmidt (1880-1962) and his brother Will (1881-1970), came to Central Alberta to homestead in the fertile Blindman Valley. The train trip from Clear Lake, Iowa, brought them as far as Red Deer, then a small railway town with wagon rutted streets, a few provisioner's stores, and a scattering of rough dwellings. Gaetz and Cornett had already established the community's first pharmacy — a name still linked with that business today.

Emil was the second born (the eldest, Anna, died at 18), a first son, for Fredrick (Fred) Schmidt (1841-1932), and Emilie Knaak Schmidt (1856-1913), both born in Germany and married in Detroit, Michigan, on Emilie's fifteenth birthday, September 10, 1871. At the time of a panic, now referred to as a depression, the Fred Schmidts and Emilie's brother, William Knaak, moved to farm, each on 40 acres of land, about two miles east of Clear Lake, Iowa. Later, the Schmidts moved to a farm in Lincoln Township, about five miles northeast of Clear Lake. Hard work bore little fruit in those times, with a dozen eggs selling for just 6¢, so it was little wonder that the brothers were lured from the meagre conditions by the promise of fertile homesteads and the pioneer experience.

Once in Red Deer, Emil and Will obtained what

provisions they could afford and carry, and set off on foot, catching short lifts with passing wagons, to locate their homestead. The long, arduous task of clearing the land and making a home for themselves began. Staple goods and some tools were bought in Red Deer and packed home on their backs. As late as the 1940's, the roofless remains of a cabin, built by the brothers from hand hewn logs, still nestled in the trees at the top of a hill on the homestead quarter. This quarter, bordered on the east by the 5th Meridian, extended north almost to the Blindman River.

Oxen were used to clear and cultivate the land until horses could be afforded. Their small earnings were supplemented with seasonal employment on bridge-building crews. Emil contacted typhoid fever while a bridge over the Red Deer River was being constructed. The mortality rate for that and other diseases was extremely high, but he survived. However, the 40-day diet of only milk which aided his recovery, left him with a permanent, passionate dislike for the nutritious fluid!

In 1904, Will married Dorothy (Dolly) McMahon, and the brothers acquired separate farms. Emil's land, SW¼-24-39-1-W5, was originally

homesteaded by R. Mitchell in 1900, who built the original wood-frame house. Twenty years after his brother's marriage, Emil married Ruth Lofgren, the eighteen year old, eldest child of Edward and Nancy Johansson, immigrants from near Göteborg, Sweden. (Edward soon arranged for a name change because even then, there were so many Johanssons around!) Ruth had been born in Stavely, Alberta, April 1, 1905. The family later farmed in Montana and on their return to Canada, bought land on the north side of Blackfalds road, half a mile east of Durham School.

Emil, for so many years the confirmed bachelor, had acquired many culinary and housekeeping skills along with those of tilling the soil and growing a productive vegetable garden. Ruth, who was her father's "right hand man" on the land, was none too versed in homemaking, by her own admission. Her one resolution on entering this unfamiliar domain was to have sparkling white dishtowels. She chuckled over her naivete later on, but as long as she farmed, her dishtowels were both boiled and bleached every Monday. As a student in the kitchen, she learned fast and well — to bake bread and make hearty meals, adapting to and striving to maintain Emil's standards of immaculate hygiene.

Their first child, Frank Walter, born in 1925, did not survive to celebrate his third birthday. It was he, who as a toddler, once found his Dad, bleeding and unconscious, in the loft of the huge, new red barn, after a mishap which indirectly happened because of a community barn dance the previous evening. Emil had been climbing a ladder to the platform to open the enormous doors in order to air the loft, when the ladder slipped on the waxed wooden floor. The points of impact were Emil's chin, and his left thumb which was pinned under the ladder. The thumb wound later became gangrenous and he was left with a stubby stump of a thumb which awed and delighted little folk ever after, but which proved something of a handicap in daily life.

Frank died of Scarlet Fever at the time of Raymond Earl's arrival, February 28, 1927. The loss of his first son was a tragedy from which Emil never totally recovered.

Laura May's birth on June 18, 1929, came at a very busy time for the family as the new house was just being built. It was pre-fabricated which must have been something of a first in the area. With his customary vision and foresight, Emil installed electrical wiring before the lathe and plaster were applied. He took an awful ribbing about those wires hanging down from the ceilings and out of the walls for over fifteen years before rural electrification became a reality. But his was the last laugh then, as



Emil Schmidt Family: Connie, Laura, Ray, Eleanor, Carol. Seated: Ruth and Emil.



The E. F. Schmidt farm home.

neighbors for miles around had to practically dismember their houses to install wiring and fixtures.

Farming techniques were beginning to improve by the time Ray and Laura came on the scene. But the dry, lean years of the late 20's and early 30's meant that tractors and tractor-drawn equipment made a slow appearance on land around the district. Gradually they came, those ponderous great Rumley and Hart Parr tractors with their enormous steel lug wheels, drawing breaking plows, gang plows, harrows and seeders to herald the arrival of mechanized farming. But horses were not to be completely replaced for many years when it came to haying and harvesting chores, and some, though not Emil, were reluctant to part with them.

Unsuspecting of the drought to follow, Emil planted a long row of tiny spruce and pine trees to eventually act as a wind-break. Scores of the little seedlings were set out in a triple row, south of the house and farm buildings. Patiently, laboriously he pumped and carried water by the hundreds of bucketfuls, saving the majority. The rewards within a few years, started to be evident and are still enjoyed today by the present owners.

Another quarter of land, half a mile south of the home place, was added to the family holdings and became known as "the upper" or "other place". Emil and Will, by design or happenstance, became owners of a threshing outfit which for years moved with its crew of neighbors, from farm to farm, as the crops of wheat, barley and oats turned golden in the Fall. Emil, recognizing the need to market the bountiful harvests, became one of the original contract signers of the Alberta Wheat Pool.

Threshing season was an exciting time for everyone. Although the weather and break-downs were a constant threat, the giant operation crawled from field to field leaving in its wake enormous golden straw stacks and granaries full of the farmer's staff of life. While the men toiled in the fields, loading the big team-drawn hayracks with twine-tied sheafs to be pitched into the ever-ravenous conveyor of the threshing machine, the women stoked up their wood stoves. They turned out three, generous, taste-tempting meals a day plus mountains of fresh buns, doughnuts, cakes and cookies for mid morning and mid afternoon coffee breaks. Those two "lunches" were taken to the field where the hungry harvesters savored them and a little rest, in shifts.

Much to the consternation of many, though not of Ruth, Emil was away on his annual hunting trip west of Rocky Mountain House when Eleanor Ruth chose to make her appearance in November of 1935. This yearly adventure into the rugged mountainous country he respected and loved so dearly, was for decades

his only holiday from the demands of mixed farming, and one he continued to anticipate and enjoy into his 70's. If he managed to slip back to the wilds for a little trout fishing, it was a bonus.

Emil was one of the prime movers in the establishment of the Durham School Board. He served on it in several capacities over the years. Himself a well educated man for his times with qualifications to teach, he strove to make a sound, basic education available to his children and those of the district. Many of the Durham teachers boarded with Ruth and Emil — Mary Holton, Doris McCubbin (later Doris Anderson, editor of *Chatelaine Magazine*), Agnes Farewell and Sheila Hanna, among them. Highlights of the school year for the community were the annual Christmas Concerts, and School Picnics. Student participation in the concerts ranged from recitations, plays and pageants, to musical drills. And at least one of the excited thespians could be counted on to get sick or faint behind the scenes every year! The picnic brought parents, pre-schools, pupils and friends from the district together for a fun-filled day of country-style sports events and mouth-watering picnic fare.

On February 20, 1944, twin girls — Carole Ann and Connie Gay — were born to Ruth and Emil. To interested observers, the two little blonde blue eyed babies were like grandchildren to Emil, 65 at the time of their birth. They loved to climb up on his lap to listen to the ticking of his old gold railway watch fastened to his trousers with a thong of raw moose hide, to listen to him sing his tuneful German ditties, as had the other children before them. And on a fine summer evening they could be seen perched, clad in pink sleepers, one on each of his shoulders, making an inspection tour of the yard and garden before bedtime! It was with their arrival that the pressing need for indoor plumbing became even more evident. A hand pumped pressure system was installed, later to be replaced by the electrical deep-well system made possible by the coming of Calgary Power to the community.

As Ray grew up and became more involved in farming, Emil purchased the quarter of land across the road from the "other place", from Gus Wahl. Gus, more tinkerer than farmer, had the reputation of being able to bite the heads off shingle nails! He continued to live in his rickety little house on the property until his death. With real perseverance, the quack grass infested fields of "Gus'es place" were brought into grain and hay production.

In a quiet family ceremony in October, 1948, Laura married Floyd Van Slyke whose family had moved to the neighborhood earlier from Heisler. Though it was an idyllic union, the natural outcome

of a long courtship during and after high school days together at the Red Deer Composite, Laura had some misgivings. They were not about the marriage, but rather about leaving her mother alone to cope with those mischievous twins, and the too numerous tasks of farm home and family. Somehow it all worked out. Laura would often visit to help out at canning time, and Eleanor pitched in as best she could until she too left the farm to attend Lacombe High School, and later to work at CKRD, Red Deer.

Ray married Patricia McIlwaine in March, 1952, and for a time the couple resided on the home farm, with Pat becoming a willing and cheerful helpmate to her congenial mother-in-law. Then, a splendid hilltop house site was chosen on "Gus'es place" which became their farm. This beautiful quarter with its secluded, enchanted spring, and its wooded wilderness areas, is to this day a home for deer and other wild animals. Emil and Ray once dammed the spring and stocked the pond with mountain grown rainbow trout, but between the hazards of Spring flooding and the odd poacher, the stock could not be retained.

Ray and Pat's four oldest children were born while the couple were farming. Viki in 1952, Karen in 1954, Lance 1958, and Lynda in 1961. Allan arrived in 1963 while the family resided in Lacombe and Ray was employed as a land assessor. Several years later, the Ray Schmidts moved to Fort Smith in the NWT where Ray still works for the Federal Government.

In 1955, Eleanor moved to "the coast" and soon found a job as a writer for CKNW, New Westminster. In August, 1956, she married Donald Dixon, then an engineering student at UBC. She had met him several years previously while he was stationed with the Canadian Air Force at Penhold. Their first child, Frank, was a 1958 New Year's baby. After Don graduated, they moved to Deep River, Ontario, where Don was employed with Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd., Chalk River. Juli was born in Deep River in 1960, and Corinne in 1961. The family moved back west for two years, 1963-1965, living near Trail, B.C. where Don worked for Cominco. They then spend three years in Trinidad, W.I. where Don helped establish a technical institute in Port of Spain, returning to Deep River in 1968 where they still reside.

Having disposed of machinery and equipment in an auction sale in November, 1961, Emil, whose health in his 80's was failing somewhat, had a short and reluctant retirement from farming. The week that Connie and Carole were to graduate from high school in Bentley, he died suddenly at home, on Monday, May 15, 1962, of a heart attack. He was 82. Tributes poured in from miles around to his example as a

father, friend, neighbor and humanitarian. He had farmed with oxen yet lived to hear of the Russians launching their first Sputnik into outer space, and to marvel at the achievement. He was a man who loved a good yarn from the past but who lived only in and for the present, and a man who declared and practised the co-operative ideals of socialism long before it was the vogue.

Ruth sold the farm that Fall and moved with Carole and Connie, into a house on 55th Street in Red Deer. The move heralded an unprecedented thinning out of accumulated possessions. Always economy-minded, Ruth saved everything that "might come in handy someday". With uncharacteristic ruthlessness, dozens of hitherto necessary items were disposed of — an old well becoming a repository for what we now hear are "collectables".

In Red Deer, Ruth became landlady and second Mom to a growing alumni of young boarders. In 1964, Carole married a young teacher from east of Red Deer, Walle Deering. Their only child, Kim, was born in May, 1965. After two bouts of serious surgery in 1965, Ruth joined Eleanor and Don in Trinidad for a change and rest which extended to a nine month stay. It was an experience all concerned treasured.

Beset by health problems stemming from worsening arthritis, Ruth decided to move to a suite in 1973. Once more treasured possessions had to be parted with, this time without her direct supervision. She gave free rein from her hospital bed to Laura, Floyd and Eleanor (visiting from Ontario) to make the decisions, some of which nostalgia made difficult but other that caused the three in consultation, to become limp with laughter. The week long task completed, friends, relatives and neighbors joined Floyd and Laura in celebrating a gala 25th Wedding Anniversary.

Though her capacity to live life to the fullest never diminished, her strength did, and Ruth gave up her suite on the South Hill in 1977 to move to Twilight Lodge in Red Deer. Before her sudden death in hospital where she was being treated for a broken leg, on August 25, 1979, Ruth made one last trip in October, 1978. She visited Eleanor and Don, renewing acquaintances with her grandchildren and enjoying the spectacular color of an Ontario autumn.

There are countless experiences, incidents, even dates, that this author cannot recall on behalf of her family. Having made only periodic visits to her home community since 1955, she has both forgotten and missed out on the reinforcing reminiscences of others about by-gone days. But personal memories abound.!

She remembers the ringing sound of a rousing Sunday horseshoe game being played by her Dad,

brother and uncles. The peels of laughter from the loft in the then-old red barn, as family and neighbors gathered to play shuffleboard, a game her Dad discovered and transported from a Schmidt family reunion in Florida. She remembers sugar-rationing and that saccarin doesn't make a good substitute for sugar in rhubarb pie! The vision of Daryl Adams, limp with laughter on the back of Babe, Carlyle's buckskin mare, while neighbors tried to coax the errant Treltel (the Schmidt-Pickering shorthorn bull) to return home. There are many recollections of UFA and FWUA meetings, quilting bees, bridal and baby showers, house and barn raisings, dances at Aspelund Hall.

Memories linger from the months Laura, as a young high school graduate, assumed charge of at least 30 pupils taking correspondence courses at Aspelund School. Having a younger sister among her charges made the awesome task more difficult, but having someone to share the teacherage atop the bald school hill must have helped compensate. They pooled their body warmth sleeping in the same hollow of the Winnipeg couch instead of each in her own, as on stormy nights the snow drifted in through cracks around windows and under the door. Everything except them and the sauerkraut froze!

She fell in love, as little people often do with their Grade 1 teacher, . . . Agnes Farewell, at Durham. Nettie Roe as her Grade 4 and 5 teacher at Aspelund will always be remembered for her excellent methods and strict discipline. And there could have been none better than the young graduate, Pearl Nienhuis, for Grades 8 and 9 back at Durham in preparing her for both the dreaded Departmental and for high school.

Of hired help, she remembers Bill MacDonald and his sister "Mac", stalwart Scots whose dedication to hard work and family welfare was remarkable. Their brogues, thick as the oatmeal on which they'd been raised, along with fine senses of humor, made the duo resident comedians. And who of us that remain, can forget the immense help and gentle presence of Edna Holingstead, Louise Pickering's sister, when the twins were tiny. The good times together were many but the heart-stopper was when she and the twins all contacted Scarlet Fever. Although the trauma was great, the twins were never in danger. But Edna's suffering was long, and totally draining.

And who that was present will ever forget Ruth and Emil's 25th Wedding Anniversary celebration in the summer of 1949. Friends and relatives for miles around were gathered in their home and yard when a fierce thunderstorm struck. There was an exploding sound, a flash of blue light and when everyone began recovering from the fright, we were standing, hud-

dled together in tight groups for instinctive protection. It was soon discovered that the lightening bolt which caused the phenomena had struck the hog house, killing one full grown pig, and cutting electrical wiring into spaghetti lengths. Luckily, no fire had ensued. The treasured gift on the occasion, a set of Lady Hamilton silverware, was passed onto Eleanor who uses it often with joy.

William Schmidt Settled Early in Blindman Valley

This is another in a series of articles on the pioneers of Red Deer and district. The articles are being contributed by the Archives Committee as its centennial project.

William H. Schmidt

(The Archives Committee is indebted to an unidentified source for this interesting history of the William H. Schmidt family.)

One of the earliest settlers in the Blindman Valley was William H. (Will) Schmidt, who arrived there with his brother, Emil, soon after the twentieth century became a reality.

Will was born on July 23, 1881 at Clear Lake, Iowa, of parents born in Germany, his father having come from Steaden while his mother came from Prinslau. They were married in Detroit, where his father worked in a railway car shop, and he later served with the United States army in Texas. They had a family of three sons and three daughters, one of whom died in childhood. During the winter months Will attended school and he herded cattle all summer, while Emil worked on the family farm. In the year 1898, it became apparent that the farm was too small to support the growing family, so Will and Emil left home to find sources of income elsewhere.

In the winter of 1899, when he saw an article about Canada, setting out all the golden opportunities that awaited settlers there, he wrote to Hon. Clifford Sifton, then Canada's minister of immigration, and after hearing from him, they decided to come to Alberta. It was on March 22, 1900 that they started on their journey by way of St. Paul, Minn. and from thence, they took the Soo line until it connected up with the C.P.R. Their fare amounted to 3 cents a mile in the United States and 1 cent a mile in Canada, and the trains had only bare wooden seats. They arrived in Calgary on a Saturday evening, and stayed at the Queen's Hotel on 4th Street East. The weather was beautiful, with the snow all gone and no frost, so on Sunday, they went for a walk and sun-bathed on a hill to the south.

Monday morning, they left Calgary for Red Deer and by the time the train reached the type of country where brush and clumps of trees were more preva-

lent, snow was falling and by the time they reached Red Deer, there was five inches of it on the ground. Red Deer had only four general stores at that time, and they stayed at the Arlington Hotel, where they met a man named Jack Hart who wanted a man to work on his farm, so Will and Emil worked there until the 11th of June.

After looking over several townships, they were advised to go to the Sylvan Lake district in their quest for land. Setting off on foot and travelling westward, they stopped at a farm where the Faucher family lived. There was no overnight accommodation there, so they went on to Loiselles. They lived in a 16 x 20 shack, yet 22 people slept there, some on the floor and some on a table, while the family had wooden bunks. Mr. Loiselle caught fish out of the lake for supper. Going south next morning to the outlet of Sylvan Lake, they found a corduroy road there to allow oxen and wagons to cross. Then heading northeast on a surveyor's line, they came to the Blindman River, nine miles west of Blackfalds, and as they walked up the hill to the south, they decided that that was the type of land they were looking for, so Will selected the southeast quarter as his homestead, while Emil selected the northeast quarter.

They each had \$100 when they arrived in Red Deer, and this they used to buy horses, most of which died from swamp fever. Emil got work in the bush, while Will was employed at a sawmill. Later he hauled piles 30 feet long, to Red Deer for the bridge that was replacing the one that had been taken out by the ice in the spring and he also hauled wood to Blackfalds, where it was left in piles and disposed of later.



The log house built by Will and Emil Schmidt on their homestead. Will and his wife lived here and Mina was born here. Built in 1903.

There were a few other settlers in the valley, Skales, who lived on the top of the hill where Bob Carlyle now lives, the Wigmores, who had a homestead and were building a log shack, and R. T. Attwood in the valley where the Will Ironsides now live. Will's quarter was all bush, while Emil's was

mostly open hillside, and they worked together for a few years, breaking five acres with oxen and fencing their land to keep out cattle that roamed for miles.

In 1902, the Roger McMahon family arrived and settled where Mrs. Elizabeth Pickering now lives. There were two daughters in the family, Dolly and Bernie. Bernie was married to R. T. Attwood on December 25, 1903, and Will was married on January 14, 1904 to Dolly, who was born in Louisville, Ont. in 1885.

In 1902, Will worked on the railroad and also in a lumber camp near Olds and during the hard winter of 1906 that resulted in loss of some of their livestock. Will left his wife to do the chores and again worked in a lumber camp. Oxen were then purchased to replace horses. In 1908, Will worked on the bridge west of Penhold, and he had a marvelous escape when he fell off the bridge and through the ice into the river. Some time later Will bought Emil's land, thus increasing his holdings to 510 acres, and Emil purchased land further west.



A C.O.D. tractor bought in 1917 by Emil and Will Schmidt.

In 1917, Will bought his first tractor a C.O.D. Minneapolis, together with a 24 Fairbanks-Morse separator, and this threshing outfit operated about two months every year from Sylvan Lake almost up to Blackfalds. In the spring of 1917 Will and Emil both bought Model T Ford cars, much to the envy of their neighbors, and in 1924, Will replaced his previous threshing outfit with a 16-30 Rumely outfit with a 28 Rumely separator, and later the Rumely tractor was replaced by a 18-36 Hart-Parr.

In 1918, the Lofgren family arrived in the district from Montana, and settled on the farm now owned by Jim Park. Emil married Ruth Lofgren on April 16, 1924, and it took them 12 hours to get to Red Deer by team, the snow was so deep. Will was on the Aspelund school board for 15 years and member of the municipal council, which when enlarged, became the Municipality of Lorne, and he also was a member

of the U.F.A. For many years, he milked 11 cows, and he also managed to raise several good crops. His son, Philip, worked with his father until he married, when he took over the half of the farm. In 1937, Will built a trailer and with his wife, took a trip through 17 different states, and he also made several trips to California to visit his sister and to Florida, to visit his brother, Frank.



Will Schmidt's new home which he built in 1918.

In 1942, he sold his farm to his son, Ralph, and with the help of a neighbor, Tony Swanson, he built the house that his wife and he lived in in Red Deer. Emil died on May 15, 1936. As Will says, times have changed since when the first baby was coming, he rode horseback to Red Deer to get the doctor, and the land he paid \$20 per acre for, now sells at \$200 per acre. Mr. and Mrs. Schmidt are a greatly admired couple by their many friends.

Their family consists of two sons and one daughter.

Philip, who was born on February 20, 1905, married Agnes Lofgren on July 6, 1929, and farmed the half of his father's land that he took over.

Ralph, who was born on November 20, 1915, married Wanda Broderson on October 14, 1937, and farmed the former home farm.

Mina, who was born on May 19, 1909, married Ben Reiswig on November 6, 1929 and they also farmed in the Blindman Valley.

Both Will and Dolly enjoyed their retirement for many years. He worked in his garden until he was 86 years when he suffered a stroke. She enjoyed bowling and playing cards every week until she moved to a nursing home at the age of 85, the year of Will's death.



Will and Dolly Schmidt, Golden Wedding Anniversary, 1954.

They always cherished their friends in the Blindman Valley, and looked forward to any visits or get-togethers with them. They were true pioneers, who lived to see and enjoy the fruits of their labors.

Philip and Agnes Schmidt

Philip was the oldest son of Will Schmidt, and was born and raised on the farm his father homesteaded. After attending school at Aspelund and Durham he took an agricultural course at Olds. He was an active member of the Junior UFA from its inception.



Philip Schmidt plowing with six horses on his farm. The Heenan homestead is in the background.



Hockey on the Blindman River: Inger Riis, Mina Schmidt, Philip Schmidt, Gus Wall, Owen O'Meara, Chris Riis. The first bridge in the background.

He remembers the dances in Emil Schmidt's barn when the Juniors were raising funds to build the Aspelund hall. The music was often supplied by the Harry Bone Orchestra, of Red Deer. There were times when he would bring them out, then a long trip, before the dance in his trusty Model T. Ford.

Philip farmed with his Dad until he married Agnes Lofgren in 1929. Agnes had come to the district from Great Falls, Montana in 1918, with her family.

Philip continued to work with his Dad after he and Agnes moved to their farm, which was near his home place, N¼ 17-39-28-W4. Their first home was a one-room frame building that was later used as a granary. It was so cold the water would be frozen every morning during the winter. However they were young and took in their stride until the next year when Philip and his Dad built a new home which is still lived in, with a few additions, at the present time. Fifty-five acres of the quarter was broken by horses and a VanSlyke plow. It wasn't long until a tractor was added, and the work became much easier. Cows, pigs, and chickens were also a source of income, but grain remained their chief crop. Agnes became Philip's "second man". She enjoyed the work and was as handy inside the house as out. They had no children, but lived an active community and social life with their door always open to their many friends. The more Agnes had around the happier she was. They both were active supporters of the farm unions. They sold their farm in 1965 to the Brewers, but continued to live there until 1970, when they retired and moved to Red Deer, where they still live.

Christian Spycher Family

Christian (Chris) Spycher was born on April 6, 1917, the second son of Ernest and Marie Spycher. He has lived his entire life on the farm on which he was



Chris Spycher Family, 1964: Ivy, Carol, Jack; Chris and Mabel.

born, the N ½-35-39-W5. After his folks moved to their farm near Durham School he rented from his grandfather, Christian Zimmerman, which he purchased from the estate in 1962 after the passing of Grandad.

He attended school at Durham and, following the typical pattern of so many students in the early years, quit school and stayed home to help his parents on the farm, as well as helping the neighbors with their work.



Chris Spycher working at his sawmill, 1940.

At the age of eighteen, using his own Hart Parr tractor and a saw blade belonging to his dad, he started sawing wood during the winter months. In the fall of 1938, with the help of his dad and brothers, he built a saw mill with a package purchased from Belsaw. When this was finished it was operated solely by Chris for many years. This sawmill is still in good working order and, although it is not used extensively any more, could still be ready for use in a short time. Many board feet of lumber have been sawed by this mill and several farm buildings in the district have been built with lumber sawn by Chris.

In 1939 he bought his first threshing machine and continued threshing throughout the district and surrounding areas until the advent of the combine. In later years he did custom baling, travelling many miles to bale hay and straw for farmers. In 1949 he



Arnold and Chris Spycher on their school pony, 1925.

and his brother Godfrey purchased a 60 Caterpillar with brush cutting equipment; many acres of land have been brushed and cleared by them. During this time they also owned and operated a trucking business.

Although he has had many interests his main one has been farming, a business he still enjoys. Until recently he maintained a herd of cattle in which he took much pride.

At a very early age he was very interested in mechanics, and, with encouragement from his father, developed a talent in mechanics that he still enjoys today. Next to farming, mechanics runs a very close second. Many neighborhood tractors and cars are kept in running order by his capable hands.

Throughout his busy life he has always maintained a keen interest in hunting and fishing, a wonderful form of relaxation and sport. Some tall tales are spun over a coffee break many a time.

For many years he was a lineman or "trouble shooter" for the Rainy Creek Mutual Telephone Company, a job that could keep one fairly busy at times. Presently he is serving as a director on the Rural Electrification Association.

In May, 1947 he married Mabel Neal of Bentley, and to this union three children were born; Ivy Marie, born in Oct 1948, married Alan Krause. They and their two sons, Lee and Todd, live at Sylvan Lake, where Alan has a Photography Studio and Ivy works at the Bank of Commerce. Carol Anne, born Aug. 1951, married Tom Reid of Bentley. They and their daughter Tricia live in Hardisty where Tom is an electrician with Interprovincial Pipe Line, and Carol works part time at the Bank of Commerce. John (Jack) Arnold born September, 1954 passed away suddenly July 1979.

Chris and Mabel continue to live on the family farm where they have a new home, built by Chris in his spare time—a home in which they plan to live for many years to come.

Ernest Spycher Jr.

Ernie was born on the farm now operated by his brother Chris. He went to school at Durham by team and buggy or cutter, later, on horse back. He recalls going to school one day when a big dust storm raged so fiercely it blotted out the sun. His teachers were Mrs. Gill, Mr. Jeff Farewell, Miss Kenny, and Mary Halton who is now Mrs. Pollock and lives in Red Deer.



Ernie Spycher Jr. Family: James, Glen, Wendy, Bruce, Susan.

Ernie helped around the farm until joining the army March 12, 1942. He took his basic training at Camrose and served mostly with the 56th Battery Heavy Coast Artillery at Albert Head, Vancouver Island on Pacific Command. Although he never saw active duty, things got a little tense when the Japanese bombed Dutch Harbor and, from a submarine shelled the Estevan Lighthouse on Vancouver Island. After the Japanese left the Aleutian Islands Ernie received an honorable discharge in March, 1944. While on Vancouver Island he and his brother Godfrey, who was also in the armed forces, were on the same gun crew for about a year. Following his discharge, he stayed with his brother Chris helping with the farming and brush cutting.

In 1946 Ernie rented the east half section 27-39-1-W5, where he and his family live, from his father, Ernest Spycher, which had around 220 acres broken. On October 21, 1956 he married Marguerite Knoepfli who was working as a desk clerk in the Sylvan Lake Hotel at that time. In 1959 they bought a quarter on which the Hodson family had formerly lived, selling it in 1979 to Mr. Graff. In 1963 when Mr. and Mrs. Spycher Sr. retired to Bentley, Ernie and Marg

bought the farm and moved into the “big” house from the little one they had used for seven years.

Five children have blessed their home. Bruce Douglas born July 22, 1957 now living in Red Deer apprenticing for his mechanic’s license; Glen Gary born May 29, 1959 (on his Grandmother Spycher’s birthday). Glen is currently working at Sear’s tire shop in Red Deer. On August 25, 1979 he was united in marriage to Victoria Starr Townsend of Red Deer. They have a son Jonathon Bradley. Susan Nancy joined the family tree on January 28, 1963; James Arthur on November 27, 1967; and Wendy Marlene on December 8, 1969. They all took their schooling in Bentley.

Ernie and Marg have been active members of their church, with Ernie serving on the Sylvan Lake Gospel Chapel Board, and presently assisting as Sunday School teacher there.

The Bernell Tatlock Family

by Freda Tatlock

Bernell Arthur Tatlock is the eldest child of the late Arthur Guy Tatlock and Myrtle May (Mayhew) Tatlock. He, a native of the Durham district, lived and worked on his folks farm until November, 1950 when he married Freda Elsie Werth of Calgary.

How did we meet? I taught three years at the Centerview School, south of Forshee. Ellaz, my sister, stayed with me in the teacherage. A friend from Calgary introduced us to the Surrat family, and Burnell was a friend of Don Surrat.

After our marriage Bernell made his first move, to the Emanuel Reiswig farm about two and one half miles from his home, on the Blackfalds highway just across from the Durham School. The school barn was on our land. This school was in operation until June, 1951.

Now after thirty years as a farmer’s wife, I look back to those first years and think what a change it was for a city girl. Had it not been for the most friendly and thoughtful neighbors, always ready to drive in to let me know of coming events, or taking me to the different meetings and social gatherings, I would have been very lonely. I was quite isolated with no telephone, no vehicle, but I couldn’t drive if I had had one. Just to mention a few of these kind friends who did chauffeur me, Lyla and Henry Pickering, Mary Nagy, Archie and Sara Carlyle, my sister and husband, Don and Ella Surrat, and later, Sue Park and Hazel Guenther.

The winter of 1951 was my first experience riding on a tractor. Because of the snow this became our only means of transportation for a week or more. I was used to riding on street cars and transit busses — but a tractor?? The tractor won out, as I was carrying

black and blue bruises for some time from trying to balance as I stood beside Bernell on that jerky machine.

I learned much about farming the first year. There I sat surrounded by all my electrical kitchen appliances, as well as lamps for the living room, but no power. Katie Farrell came to the rescue so we could eat. She loaned us her wood and coal stove from her house where she and her husband George had lived in the Reiter farmyard.

Just after our first wedding anniversary, and in time for my birthday in December, 1951, Calgary Power hooked up our transformer. Power! What a wonderful birthday present! No more going from room to room with a flashlight. Now we could use our own stove and all the other appliances. This made living much easier and more enjoyable.

How different trying to budget when no cheque came every two weeks or once a month. I soon came to the conclusion that every city person should spend at least two years on the farm, and the farmer the same in the city, as part of their education. This way I’m sure each would understand the other much better.

Bernell was in registered Hereford cattle together with his two brothers, which meant most of his time was spent at his folks farm. After a few years we went on our own so I saw more of Bernell.

We had three sons. Garry Allan our first son, was born on July 12, 1952; James Bernell on May 11, 1955; and Brian Wayne on February 10, 1957.

One of the highlights of the fifties was Lyla Pickering’s morning birthday party each December 24. We ladies of this Birthday Club, which is still



Bernell and Freda Tatlock with sons James, Brian and Gary, 1981.

going strong, gathered at the Pickering home with all our little ones, a present for each, and cards for the other families of our group. All went into Santa's bag, unknown to the children. After Lyla's birthday was celebrated, sleigh bells could be heard and in came Santa, pack on back. A more jolly, dancing Santa was never seen. How the excited youngsters gathered around to receive their gifts, anxiously telling him what they wanted for Christmas. Then Santa was off. All thanks went to our own Katie Farrell, with the help of her Santa Claus outfit from teaching days, plus a few pillows here and there — a perfect and lovable Santa. I especially remember one of those parties when the snow was quite deep. Bernell, I, and the youngsters, one only a baby, drove in in style, a team drawn sled and hayrack. I certainly enjoyed this and have many pleasant memories of all my friends during our stay here, from 1950-1963.

I remember one summer when Garry was young I pushed him in his stroller out to the Blackfalds highway to catch a ride to church with Rev. Thackery, and came home with one of the families who attended.

However we were hailed so many years in a row it was difficult to carry on. We sold the house on an acreage to Tony Minard in 1963. The remainder of the land was purchased by Archie Carlyle, and we moved to the Evergreen district, South of Condor. After two years here I went on permanent staff at Caroline High School teaching my favorite courses, typing, shorthand, business procedures and machines. I retired in June of 1979.

Bernell still keeps a few registered Herefords, but now farms with our son James with well over 150 head of cattle. He thinks he just can't retire.

Garry has been in Calgary since high school graduation where he took Industrial Engineering, and is presently employed in the office with Stream Flo. James completed a two-year chef course in Calgary, then decided to take Education at the University of Alberta. However, in his third year while practise teaching, he realized farming was his first choice. After two years framing houses in Edmonton, he returned home to farm with his dad and eventually take over the farm. Brian completed his training in Business Education at the U. of A. and is presently in his second year of teaching at Rocky High, Rocky Mountain House, where he lives.

Arthur and Mrytle Tatlock Family **Ralph and Maureen Tatlock**

The N.E. 34-39-1 W5 is the original homestead; the home of Arthur and Mrytle Tatlock; the former Martin Idd place, before Art purchased this land in 1906. The Tatlocks came from Oketo, Kansas, U.S.A. She was a young bride (married on February

27, 1907) when they came here in 1909 and made their home. They first lived on the Ed Begart place, where Murray Petersons now live, while Art was building their home. They both worked very hard together, and a few years later Art bought the S.W. 27-39-1 W5.

They had four children: Bernell; (born in Kansas) now lives in Evergreen, Alberta. Faye; (born at home) lives in Holden, Utah; Verel (born at home) lives at Bentley and Ralph (born in Bentley).

Some years later, in the early twenties, Mrytle's father, John Mayhew, came up from Kansas and purchased the S.E. 4-40-1 W5. This quarter was the Woods and Peabody place. He bought this land for the beauty of the trees only, not for the land itself.

Ralph, being the youngest of Arthur and Mrytle, went to Durham and Carritt schools. Faye, being over twelve years older than Ralph, was Ralph's school teacher for one year at Aspelund school. Because of his health (asthma) he had to leave the farm and go to Red Deer to attend school.

The neighbors were the Reiters, Petersons, Zimmermanns and Pickerings. They did a great deal of visiting back and forth, even if they had to walk. Nearly every Sunday they would have Sunday dinner together with one of the neighbors.

The Calgary Power (what a thrill) came in in the year of 1946.

Ralph married the former Maureen Marshall from Eckville on July 25, 1953. They lived with Ralph's parents while their home was being built. They now live on the S.E. 4-40-W5. They have four children and three grandchildren. Cheryl, the eldest, married Randy Cox from Gull Lake. They live in



50th Wedding Anniversary, Myrtle and Arthur Tatlock, February 27, 1957.

Red Deer where Randy is employed at Southside Motors as a mechanic. They have two girls, Nicole, four and one half years old and Candace Lynn one and one half years old. Dianna Lynn, the second girl, married Dwaine Wilson from Red Deer. They live at Sylvan Lake. Dwaine is self-employed with Wilson's Mobile Hauling. They have one boy, Jeffery, two and one half years old. Dianna Lynn is presently employed at Safeway. Wesly is at home farming with his dad. Ralph and Wesly raise registered Hereford cattle. Cameron (Cammy) is the youngest. He is nine years old.

Arthur and Mrytle celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary in 1957. A celebration dinner was held in their honor at Ralph and Maureen's home with family and close friends invited. The same evening "Open House" for Art and Mrytle was held at the Delmar Peterson home. This was a great celebration for them. Friends from near and far attended this. They were together for over fifty one happy years. Art passed away suddenly on September 7, 1958. He was nearly eighty years old. Mrytle passed away on March 23, 1960. She was in her seventy-third year.

Maurice and Berthe Thevenaz

Maurice and Berthe Thevenaz emigrated from Switzerland in 1913 and 1914 respectively. Upon Berthe's arrival they were married on April 3 in Red Deer by the Rev. Brown; then went to Sylvan Lake where they stayed with the Charles Cuendets (Maurice's sister) for one year. Maurice preferred picking rocks to picking roots, so was lured to the prairie region in South Saskatchewan, homesteading near Tomkins.

They returned to Sylvan Lake in 1934 with their son, Michel, staying at the John Tanche farm for the summer. In the fall they moved to the Teasdale farm,



The Thevenaz: David, Maurice, Jean, Charles, Mrs. Thevenaz Sr., and Mitch.

the original Armeneau homestead. George Rozier was the last farmer owner. During the twelve years there they were active in community affairs, and ethnic and church groups. Maurice was an active "behind the glass" curler, and also loved playing cards. Berthe enjoyed sewing and creating fancy food delicacies. In 1946 they moved to a farm north of Sylvan Lake, retiring to the village of Bentley in 1953.

Michel (Mitch) enjoyed swimming and participated in whatever sports were available at that time. He attended Norma and Sylvan Lake schools. Many friends came to the farm for rural diversion, pony riding, hunting, hiking, etc. He followed his parents to the Rainy Creek district where he married Jean MacPhee in 1953. In time three sons, David, Maurice, and Charles blessed their home.

Mitch now works at Lacombe with Agriculture Canada, and Jean nurses at the Rimbey Auxiliary Hospital. Charles died accidentally in 1969, Maurice, in charge of the family farm, is also a licensed embalmer, and David has a natural fertilizer business in Calgary.

J. O. Van Slyke

After living near Heisler, Alberta, on a farm owned by his father since 1906, Johnny Van Slyke, his wife Ruth and their three sons, Floyd, Gilbert and Orville decided to come to Sylvan Lake for a two week vacation in the summer of 1944 with the intention of looking for a farm.

We were taken by a realtor from Red Deer to the farm of Mr. Bill Heenan. The deal was made for the purchase of the farm. We moved to our new home in the valley in November, 1944. Our family soon discovered, one reason for the valley being famous, was that the most friendly and kindest people on earth lived there.

Floyd, our oldest son, came ahead of the family that fall, and took his grade 12 in the Red Deer High School, where he met Laura Schmidt, who became his wife a few years later. Gilbert and Orville attended Aspelund School, which was across the Blindman River from our place. The distance I believe was over three miles. Their teacher at that time was Nettie Roe. Johnnie had a closed cab built, which he placed on a sleigh, or cutter and was drawn by one horse. Floyd and his dad installed a small wood and coal heater in the front of the cab. This kept the boys warmer on their way to and from school.

In 1946 Roger was born, and even though the Red Deer Advocate printed in the birth section, "a daughter was born to Mr. and Mrs. John Van Slyke"; also some of the neighbors congratulated us on finally

having a girl, we were still very proud of our little boy.

We loved our home, which to us, with electric lights, produced by a windcharger with twelve huge glass batteries in the cellar, that boiled almost to the boiling point when the wind blew, was such an improvement over the coal oil lamps, gas lamps and lanterns.

Our water supply was taken from a dug well in the cellar which was not very deep, but had good clear water. There was a pitcher pump at a large sink in the kitchen, which very handily supplied us with the water we required. However a bucket under the sink, that had to be carried out and emptied out the back door, seemed always to be running over.

We eventually had the house raised and a coal furnace installed in the full sized basement; before this we had relied on a cook stove and a coal heater in the living room. A small coal and wood heater was used in the hall upstairs, only when the weather was very cold.

In the spring of 1949 Calgary Power came into the area. A real dream was realized when we had a yard light, and lights in the barn and house. All in the district were rushing to convert their homes and to install bathrooms, appliances and lights.

Our family liked to think we were musical and spent many a happy evening singing and playing together. All of the boys had been in school bands at one time or another. Johnnie and I were both farm union members, perhaps not too active, but trying to help when we could, attending many F.U.A. conventions, two in Calgary, but mostly in Edmonton. We found them very interesting.

In 1948 Floyd Van Slyke and Laura Schmidt were married. Living at home with John and family for a while, then purchasing land in the Poplar Ridge district. They moved into their own home November 14, 1949. They have two children, Wendy and Larry.



Inventions by J. O. Van Slyke and Sons, 1949-1955. Above: A snow blower. Below: Jim Park, Johnnie and Gib Van Slyke with power wood splitter.



The VanSlyke snow blower.

Our farm buildings were built approximately half way across the quarter, creating a long driveway, which gave us problems, especially in the winter, with drifting snow and heavy roads. The Lacombe municipality came with a tree planter and helped us plant small spruce trees, also laurel leaf and golden willow cuttings, which we had previously ordered from Indianhead, Saskatchewan. These were planted on both sides of the drive. The growth was rapid because of sufficient rains and in a very short time our problem was solved. With hard overtime work, a circle drive and park was placed on the west side of our dwelling. We planted grass, flowers, shrubs and trees to create a homelike atmosphere.

In time the country schools were closed. Busses took the children to centralized schools in towns and cities. Our children were bussed to Bentley. After



John Van Slyke and his \$500 purebred registered Shorthorn bull, 1959.

finishing his schooling in the composite high in Red Deer, Gib helped his dad on the farm for a few years. In 1960 Gib moved to Red Deer, where he worked for Cormac Electric for seven years. In 1972 he moved to Vancouver, working for Sears in Burnaby, B.C. He married Pat Schmidt July 3, 1976. they still reside in Vancouver, B.C. Having only a few lessons in oil painting, Gib turned out some quite good paintings, giving most of them away.

Orville also finished his schooling in Red Deer, and then worked for oil companies in Alberta and southern Saskatchewan for a time. Orville married Betty Pierce from Pine Lake, Alberta in 1960 living at Orville's folks for approximately three years. They then purchased a home from Ray Schmidt, one mile west of our old home, where Orville and Betty still live. Their family consists of two boys, Mark and Dale. Orville worked for Hayhoes after he was married, then went to school at N.A.I.T. in Edmonton, becoming a qualified sheet metal mechanic.



Roger Van Slyke and his club calf, 1960.

After finishing his schooling in Bentley, Roger decided to find work away from home, and as he put it, "to try out a new boss". He worked at various jobs in Red Deer, before deciding to move to Vancouver to work for Sears in Burnaby, B.C. He was transferred by Sears to Calgary where he in 1966 was married to Dawn Thomas. Approximately two years after their marriage he was transferred back to Vancouver where they now reside. They have two girls, Dionne and Jada.

In 1968 John and Ruth sold their farm in the Blindman Valley to Lavern Park, moving to Red Deer. John's health was failing and John passed away October 5, 1972.

His wife Ruth presently lives in Red Deer.

Trevor and Eileen Wicks — NE¼-17-39-28-W4

We moved to our home in the Aspelund district on September 1, 1970. This was an acreage bought from Keith Brewer on the former Philip Schmidt farm. A short time before we had left our families in England as a newly married couple. We were really thrilled with our new home, the first one we had ever owned. There was a lot of work ahead of us — two large wood piles to be cleared, and lots of work to do both inside and out.



Eileen and Trevor Wicks, Danie and Sharon.

We learned that our new house once belonged to, and was built by Philip and Agnes Schmidt. We got to know these fine people and they filled us in on all the history about our place. We could see there had been a lot of work and love put into it over the years, but it was lacking in one big thing, children. In January of 1972, we became foster parents to Joanne and Rick Lambert, aged 10 and 7 years. These children shared their lives with us for eight years. There still seemed to be room for more so in September 1972 Sharon Marie was born. In 1973 we ran a Receiving Home for problem children; seventeen in all stayed with us for a short time. In July of 1974 our chosen son, Danie, came into our lives. With Danie, Sharon, Joanne, and Rick our family now numbered six, all in a period of two short years.

Our place still seemed to have lots of room so we housed pigs, sheep, who always wanted to roam on John and Jean Buit's field, geese, ducks, and dogs who greeted everyone when they arrived, always managing to make a meal from our garden on the way by.

In 1976 Commercial Yard Services was formed, and Trevor and I experimented by plowing up the front lawn with Bob Carlyle's old horse plow pulled

by our old MacCormick 1939 tractor. This wasn't the easiest job in the world, especially when the furrows were up to Trevor's knees. We also decided to do our own butchering, but were disillusioned when our huge pig broke the metal cable and tripod, and we found she was much too heavy for us to lift and lower in the boiling pot for scalding. In the end we did manage and enjoyed some good sausages.

In 1978 I decided to go back to school to be a Rehabilitation Service worker. I certainly had to juggle my time with the four children and a hungry husband to look after, but it all worked out. During this time Trevor was very busy with his yard service work, which had become a successful venture.

In September of 1980, after a lot of thought, we decided that it was time for us to move on. We had made a lot of great friends in the Blindman Valley and I know they will be truly missed. We are now getting settled in a new home on Vancouver Island.

by Eileen Wicks

Josh and Nellie Wilkins — SE 34-39-1-W5

Joshua (Josh) and Nellie (Haarstad) were married in 1938. The Wilkins had come from Saltfleet, Ontario in 1921, and the Haarstads in 1901, both families settling on farms in the Bentley district. After their marriage Josh and Nellie moved to Great Bear Lake where Josh worked in the mine. They bought and moved to their first farm in 1940, where they lived until their son Rodney took it over in 1962. Malcom Dane was the former owner. Their first home was a 16' x 20' frame dwelling which still can be seen just across the road, and they travelled in a 1929 Ford car.

They began farming with horses, but soon powered machinery was added, until now only saddle horses remain. They well remember their first new truck, a 1946 Studebaker, half ton. A top was built on the back, a tent was added to the equipment, and Josh and Nellie, and two other couples set off for their first holiday in Banff, leaving families and worries behind. The comfort of sleeping in the truck was shared by each couple taking turns.

Rural electrification came in 1948, so the Wilkins built a new and fully modern home on their farm. Many changes had taken place in the eight years since they had started to farm with only sixty acres broken. Most of the good land was producing and another quarter had been added. There were now five in their family: Miriam, who married Jerry Jaffary and lives in Rocky Mountain House; Rodney, who married Dorika Bennick and lives on the home place; and Sandra, who married Thomas Turnbull and lives on the old Turnbull farm North of Bentley. There are nine grandchildren: Miriam and Jerry's three sons, Darcy, Brian and Marvin; Rodney and Dorika's:

Kevin, Danny, (who was killed in a tragic accident), Glenda, and Eldon; and Sandra and Tom's: Timmy, Kari and Jay.

Josh supposedly retired in 1962 when he and Nellie moved to live in Bentley, however he actively farmed for many years and still spends many hours out at the farm. They were an active couple and made many friends in their district and in the Bentley area where they are still active. Nellie now works at the Bentley hospital.

Henry and Joan Weber

by Stella Zimmerman

The promise of cheap land brought my parents Henry Charles Weber and Joan Haresnape Weber, of Webster County, Nebraska, to Alberta. In April,



Webber house, 1903.



Webber, Zimmerman and Aeschlimann Families. Back Row, L. to R.: Anna Aeschlimann, Ernest Spycher holding Arnold Spycher, John (Jack) Zimmerman, Mrs. Miller (minister's wife), Emily Thierstein (friend). Front Row, L. to R.: Ida Aeschlimann, Chris Zimmerman, Mrs. Zimmerman holding Alberta Aeschlimann, Marie Spycher holding Christian Spycher, Stella Zimmerman holding Elsie Zimmerman, Henry C. Weber, Florence Aeschlimann, Mrs. Webber. Christening of Chris Spycher and Elsie Zimmerman, 1917.

1902, they loaded cows, horses and household goods on railroad cars and left for Canada. My father and half-brother, William Guello, went with the two cars. Mother came by immigrant train with the three youngest children: Henry Charles Jr. born 1891, Bertha Louisa, born 1893, and Estella (Stella) Christina born 1896.



Bertha Webber, 1910.

That summer father rented a place out Ballmoral way, while he proceeded to look for land. As a result he bought, for three dollars an acre, the NE ¼ 3-39-1 W5; and homesteaded the NE ¼ 10-39-1 W5. This quarter was later sold.

In February, 1903, the family moved to a log house near the shore of Snake (Sylvan) Lake, to property owned by Washington Petro. In June of that year the family moved to their own land. The Finland school was built that year and opened in the spring of 1904. It was so named because of the number of Finnish people living in the district. It was later named Sylvan Lake when the lake's name was changed. When a school was opened in Sylvan Lake village, the name Norma was given to the original school.



John Bigam, 1910.

Not long after we came here an accident happened which could have had a tragic ending. Father had stacked a triangle of boards that were left from building the house and set a grass scythe inside where no one would come to harm from it. But my sister Bertha, climbing over the boards to get a chicken, fell on the scythe cutting an artery in her leg. I sincerely believe it was God's will that my father and brothers, coming from work, drove into the yard just as it happened. Father pulled a handkerchief from his pocket and applied a tourniquet. Will jerked the harness off one of the horses and rode fifteen miles to Red Deer for a doctor. The time passed agonizingly slow, particularly so for Mother, as she had lost two children from tragic accidents during her previous marriage. The doctor who came was Dr. Richard Parsons, father of the late Dr. MacGregor Parsons and Dr. Bill Parsons of the Parson's Clinic in Red Deer. However Bertha came through her ordeal very well, but had to spend some time in bed.

Our first neighbors were the: John Kask family, the Kingsep family, Pete Walters family, A. Faucher family, Walt family, Peter Herman family, and Wartnow family. Also there were the Alex Kask and Tanches families, Bouquette, a widower, and Alex Kelso, also a bachelor. A little later the Petro family came from Pine Hill; and Mr. and Mrs. William Pickering came from England.

For entertainment there were home parties, picnics, school concerts, box socials, and later, fairs and rodeos, also there was much visiting. Church services were sometimes held in the school; one year when the weather turned colder they were held in our home.

My brother Will planned on homesteading the SW ¼ 14-39-1-W5, building a log cabin on it, but later left and went back to the States where he married. He and his wife had one daughter. William Pickering then homesteaded this quarter and lived in the log house for some years. One summer when the Pickerings were working east of Red Deer they had a couple by the name of Hawn live in the house. They and their son, Marshall looked after the place until they returned.

In order, are the teachers who taught Norma school until about 1922: George Hall Glover, Gilbert Story, Miss Fullmer, Mr. Lewis, Mr. Richards, Miss Adelaide McChauglin, Miss Laura Symonds, Gilbert Patterson, Miss Lizzie Martin (she taught about three months to finish Mr. Patterson's term), Waldo Huestice (killed in action in World War I), Mrs. O. Austin, and Mrs. Schoonover. The first year Mr. Glover taught he lived in a tent camping on our property. School was held during the summer months only as the school was too cold during the winter. The teacherage was built the following year.

During the early years many horses died of swamp fever, so oxen were broken and put to work. My parent's door was always open to strangers passing through, clergymen coming to take the services, and young student ministers needing a place to stay.

It was 1911 when the C.N. Railway started building their grade to the west country. My brother Henry got a job driving the push cart on the elevator grader. These graders were pulled by eight horses or mules, and four more were hitched to the cart in the rear. My future brother-in-law also worked on the job. This work camp was set up on the south side of the grade at the crossing by the Norma school. Brysons, the contractors, later moved this camp to Lethbridge to build an artificial lake. This lake, Henderson, I believe, is close to the present Japanese Gardens. The other camp, which was situated two miles east on the Prevo farm then moved on to our farm. The grade was finished and the steel laid in 1912.

On September 26, 1912 Bertha Weber and John Bigam were married. John worked for a while for the C.N.R. west from Edmonton. Later they moved to Berwyn where John filed on a homestead. They had three children: Norman who has a shop in Hines creek where he makes beautiful furniture, Alice who married William Pearce of Whitelaw where they farmed, and Lyle who lives in Edmonton and works

for the Provincial Department of Public Works. Bertha died in February, 1941, and John in 1952. My brother Henry died in November, 1918 during the 'flu epidemic and is buried in the Bentley cemetery. In March 1921 Father died suddenly of a heart attack and is also buried in Bentley. Mother made a trip to Kansas to visit her sisters, and while there she became ill and died in November 1924. She is buried there.

I always loved the out-of-doors, so when I was growing up I did quite a lot of riding. There was open range and every one had cattle. For some years it was my job to hunt for and drive the cows home for milking. Sometimes if it got too dark before I found them on the open range they were missed and had to be found next morning. One evening while I was out our two dogs tangled with a porcupine. One dog had sense enough to leave it alone after getting stuck, but it made the other more furious. Many of the quills were broken off, and couldn't be removed. She was a very sore dog for some time.

The home built by my parents before 1910 was a good sized, two storey frame building, which stood among the beautiful trees planted by them, until some vandals burned it about 1970. The trees still remain. This was my home until 1917 when I married Jack Zimmerman.

Rodney and Dorika Wilkins S.E. 34-39-1-W5

Rodney and Dorika Binnink of Rimbey were married on August 11, 1961; and moved on to Rodney's home place where he was farming with his father, Josh Wilkins.

They had four children; Kevin James, Jan. 16, 1962; Danny Robert, June 20, 1964, Glenda Loreen, August 24, 1967 and Eldon Rodney, November 4, 1971. Danny was killed in a tragic farm accident in 1980.

Rodney farms and raises cattle, a Hereford mix. Dorika works at the hospital in Bentley.

Douglas and Emma Wyatt and Family by Frank Wyatt

Douglas Wyatt was born April 16, 1897 in Sutton, Quebec, the eldest son of Ernest and Helen Wyatt. He went to school in Sutton before coming west with his family in 1913 to the Rainy Creek District. There he met Emma Nelson who had come to the Rainy Creek District with her family in 1902. Emma was born on January 15, 1894 in Lincoln, Nebraska. She was the fifth child of Nels and Maren Nelson. There were eventually eleven children in the

family. She attended school at Rainy Creek and then to Red Deer to complete grade nine.

Mrs. Nelson suffered ill health so Emma helped at home, sharing the responsibility of looking after the home and the younger children. After her mother's death in 1920 Douglas and Emma were married on March 17, 1925. They were the first of three marriages among the Wyatt and Nelson families, Gordon Wyatt married Alberta Nelson, and Doris Wyatt married Frank Nelson.

After their marriage they moved to their farm, E ½-21-1-39-W5, on the Bentley — Sylvan Lake highway, one half mile south of the Kneiper Hill. At the time they began breaking their farmland; the only things growing were large tiger lilies and squirrels. It has been noted by other immigrants that there were acres of tiger lilies in some places on the prairies. The Webber family (Stella Zimmerman) remembers the vast expanse of tiger lilies as they crossed the border from U.S.A.

When Emma was a little girl living in Nebraska she heard a great deal about cyclones and the damage they often caused. This had worried her a great deal but her parents reassured her that when they moved to Alberta there would be no cyclones. That illusion was shattered on July 7, 1927, when a severe cyclone went through the valley causing considerable damage.

Douglas and Emma were both active in the Rainy Creek United Church. Emma was organist for many years and a charter member of the Ladies Aid. Douglas was an elder of the church and served on the Durham School Board for many years. Emma and Murray Bigam sang at many entertainments and funerals, often with little time to practise.

Over the years their farm was gradually developed into a typical mixed farming operation. Emma had a large garden and raised chickens. They milked eight or ten cows and, in 1942, they had three sets of twin calves.

They had three children: Frank born in 1926, Roger in 1928, and Wilma in 1931. All were born at home.

Douglas served in both world wars. During the second war Emma and son Frank ran the farm. In 1964 Douglas and Emma retired from farming, and moved to Bentley.

At that time Frank married Frances Hicks of Bentley and they continued with the farming operation concentrating on dairying. They still live on the farm. They have one daughter, Bonnie.

Roger married Betty Magee of Clive and lives in Red Deer where he teaches school. They have two daughters, Marion and Myrna.

Wilma married Roy Steeves of Lockhart. They

live in Drayton Valley, and have three children, Gwenda, Douglas and Philip.

Emma passed away on July 29, 1967, and Douglas on December 8, 1980.

John and Stella Zimmerman by Stella

The Christian Zimmerman family came to Alberta in 1908 from Marshall County, Kansas. Mr. Zimmerman had made a previous trip, purchasing land in the Blindman Valley, and the south half of 15-39-1-W5. They had a family of three, one son John, and two daughters, Anna and Marie. Anna married Ernest Aeschlimann and Marie married Ernest Spycher. Chris Zimmerman owned the first car in the Durham district.



John and Stella Zimmerman's 25 Wedding Anniversary. Back: Elsie, Jack and Stella, Warren. Front: Bud, Doris.

On August 31, 1916, John (Jack) Zimmerman and I were married. We lived with my parents that winter and moved to the present home place in the spring of 1917, living in a small shack until a house was built that summer. We had four children: Elsie, born August 1917, Warren, born November 1919, Hugh (better known as Bud) born August 1924, and Doris, born July 1927. In April, 1940, Elsie and Gordon Hunter were married. Gordon works for Gulf in Red Deer, and Elsie for the Sylvan Lake Hardware. They have a family of three. Earl and his wife live at Princeton, B.C. where Earl is foreman of the copper mine. Lorraine married Brian Biette and lives in Bassano, Alberta. Lee, assistant manager of the Royal Bank, and his wife live in Lethbridge.

Warren, not married, is manager of the Rio-Alto Ranch, west of Longview, Alberta. Bud drives truck



Bud and Warren Zimmerman.

for Chemco Trucking, he is not married and makes his home with me on the farm in a new mobile home we purchased in 1974. Doris married Richard Cameron, the younger son of Mr. and Mrs. William Cameron who owned and operated the Old Dutch Bakery in Sylvan Lake for a number of years. Dick is employed by Nowsco Oil Services. They now live in Calgary. They have five children: Bill, on the Edmonton Police Force and a member of the Militia, is married to Shirley Middlebrough. Jean is a teacher in the G. W. Smith School in Red Deer. Laurie works for the University of Alberta, Alan plays hockey for the Winnipeg Jets, but lives in Edmonton with his wife and baby daughter, and Tim is assistant manager of North Star Sporting Goods in Edmonton.

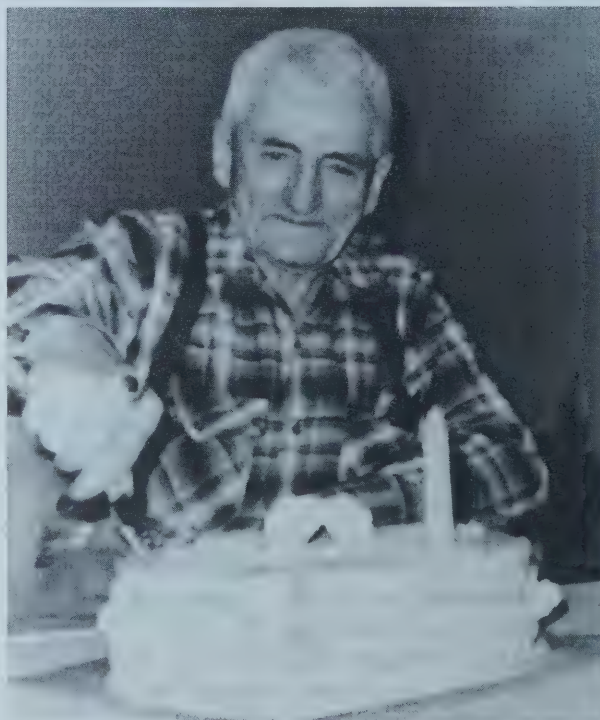
The Durham School opened in January, 1921, with Mr. Wright teaching the first two terms. Our children all attended Durham. During those years School Fairs were held and each year a boy and girl having the highest points was chosen from each school to go for one week to the Olds School of Agriculture. Several went from Durham. There were always the Christmas concerts and a picnic at the end of the year.

During the summer holidays our children herded the cows on the school section before it was sold to private owners. Also many pails of wild fruit were picked there. Like all our neighbors, we weathered

the dry years of the thirties. At one time a band of Indians was hired to do some bushing on our west quarter. While there a young boy became ill and died. He is buried there. The burial place will never be disturbed so long as we own the land.

A good part of our land was broken by plow and horse power, Jack doing the work himself. Later it was done by large equipment. Jack bought his first tractor in the spring of 1948. During the early years the grain was stacked and the machine came later to thresh it, going from farm to farm. Then came stook threshing where the sheaves were hauled to the machine. Most of the men and boys of the district had, at one time, a part in this operation. The combine then took over and is used for harvesting today.

In the year 1923, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Lowe had the old home place rented for one year. Mrs. Lowe was Mrs. Schooner's (an early Norma school teacher) sister. Esther and August Knoepfli stayed in the house for the summer of 1927, their first child being born there. Mr. Hamilton and his son Richard lived there for a while; also Mr. and Mrs. Otto Skoog, whose first son was born while they were there. The old house stood empty for several years, until one evening vandals set fire to it, burning it to the ground. Ken Kingsep, living across the road, and Bernard Sjare saved the spruce trees from burning. These trees were planted by my father many years before. It is only the memories now that are left.



J. Zimmerman's last birthday, October 11, 1965.

Jack died in November, 1965, and is buried in the Alto-Reste Memorial Gardens, Red Deer.

The Chris Zimmerman Family and The Ernest Spycher Family

Mrs. Ernest Spycher Sr. (Marie) came to Durham District with her family in 1908 at the age of 15. There were her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Chris Zimmerman, their three children, Jack, Anna, and Marie, and three friends, Otto Hueppelheuser, Bill Begert, and Ernest Aschleemann, all of Swiss origin except Otto. He settled in the Aspelund district, Bill Begert homesteaded in the Castor area, and Ernest Aschleemann who later married Anna and went to Nevada, U.S.A., bought the NE ¼-33-39-1-W5 in the Rainy Creek district. Chris Zimmerman and family settled on the S ½ 35-39-1-W5.



Zimmerman and Spycher Families. Back Row, L. to R.: Mr. and Mrs. Zimmerman Sr., Mr. and Mrs. Reiter, Middle Row, L. to R.: Ernest Spycher, George Farrel. Front Row, L. to R.: Ernest Spycher Jr., Elsie (Zimmerman) Hunter, Warren Zimmerman, Freda (Spycher) Gheseger, Godfrey Spycher, Chris Spycher, Arnold Spycher, at the C. Zimmerman home.

The Zimmermans had come to Kansas from Switzerland and established a good dairy herd there. John Thierstein, a friend of theirs, was going up to Canada to visit his stepson Ed Begert, who worked with a Mr. Stettler for the German American Colonization Co. Mr. Stettler, after whom Stettler is named, had connections in Switzerland, so they were working closely with Swiss immigrants both in Canada and overseas. Ed on one of his visits home persuaded Chris Zimmerman to take a trip to Canada with him. While there Chris was quite impressed and, as land in Kansas was becoming very expensive, he decided to buy land in Canada. However he was not too taken with the Stettler area, so Ed took him and Mr. Thiernstein out to the Blindman Valley. This he liked and, purchased section 15-39-1-W5 of raw land. It was C.P.R. land as this company was working for the C.P.R., it seemed.



The first Zimmerman house. Chris Zimmerman built half of it first, finishing in 1908. It still stands on the Chris Spycher farm.

Chris Zimmerman then returned to Kansas to break the news to his family and to sell their farm there. This took about two years, but meanwhile, another farm with a few buildings owned by Mr. McDowell, a store keeper in Blackfalds, had come up for sale. This Chris purchased and it was to this S ½-35-39-1-W5 that the family moved on March, 1908.

The train trip at one cent per mile for the family and two car loads of stock (5 horses and 8 cows), machinery, and household effects, plus the dog, took about three days, but seemed endless to the three teenagers. The train would stop at certain places for water, and the owners would then have to carry pails of water to the stock and feed them whatever they had brought along. Had it not been for the dog, Jack would have lost a pair of fur gauntlet mitts, but the dog scared the intruder or thief away and then lay on the mitts until his owner returned.



Ernest Spycher and family: Freda, Ernie, Godfrey, Chris and Arnold.



Four Generations: Chris Zimmerman, Mrs. E. Spycher, Godfrey Spycher holding daughter Audrey, Rodney in front.



Ernest and Marie Spycher, 20th Wedding Anniversary, 1934.

On arrival in Calgary the wagons and democrat were unloaded and then all their belongings loaded in them, ready for the long drive out to their new home. It was then they discovered they had a stow-away. An old friend and helper from Kansas stood smiling at them from within the stock car. Evidently, he had been involved in a fight the night before they had left Kansas and the Sheriff was looking for him. So, after helping them load the stock for the trip, he hid with the animals and remained hidden the whole trip. The Zimmermans were delighted to have him as he was an excellent stock man. His name was Pete Messick.

Pete proved to be very useful even before they reached their new home. They had dinner at the Bedford House, Blackfalds, and turned Westward. A few miles later a valuable trotter horse on the democrat suddenly stiffened and could scarcely walk. They unhitched her and tied the democrat to the wagon, and Pete remained beside the road with the sick horse until he had her well enough to travel the next day.

Marie remembers how tall the trees in this area looked to her, and the log houses along the road, which she had never seen before. Ed Begert who lived on the Peterson farm kindly let them stay with him until they could clean their new home and make it more livable. The weather was fairly good at that time, but Marie recalls that that first summer from May 24 to July the sun came out twice. It rained all the time. In the end, though, the crop was good.

Prairie fires were always a threat because of much unpastured and untilld land where the grass grew undisturbed for many years. As a protection Chris and his family would burn with great care around their buildings. She remembers one fire that suddenly loomed up not far from their place and burned for days travelling miles as it did so. The horses all ran for the river with their instinct for protection.

The winters were very cold. Sometimes there would be a week of 60 below weather, when the ice on Sylvan Lake, five miles away, could be heard in the still frosty air as it formed big cracks across the surface. Marie loved to skate and spent many days going long distances down the river. During the winter she would often skate down to the Petro farm to pick up the mail he had brought from Blackfalds. Another useful pastime for the women, both young and old, was quilting. A quilt was often on the frame and who ever came would join in quilting as they visited. Marie, at the age of 88 years, still has two or three quilts on the go. One is a Centennial quilt with a big border of the coat of arms and emblem of each province surrounding modes of transportation from the oxen to the jet. She has seen and used them all. She loves to fly.

Some of the firsts she remembers are, the bridge over the Blindman below their place went east and west on the trail that came from the east and went to Rocky Mountain House; the telephone that came from Bentley and went just to their place; and a radio with ear phone bought from the Co-op store (operated by Mr. Litt) in Bentley. Her father decided it was the thing to have after listening to Bill Begert's. One time in a case of illness they couldn't get the operator by ringing the usual long ring. A neighbor, hearing this ring, knew it must be an emergency, so came on the line, took the message, and went in to notify the

doctor in Lacombe, as the telephone operator was only on during the day. The first tractor, a 1920 Massey Harris, was used for threshing and grinding only. The machines travelled for threshing, but the neighbors brought their grain for grinding. An Overland 90 touring car, 1920 model, was also fondly remembered. They attended the Rainy Creek Church for many years.

In 1914 Marie married Ernest Spycher, and Jack married Stella Webber. Marie and Ernest farmed with her parents until their retirement, when Chris Zimmerman built a cottage across the ravine on his farm for himself. They went to Oregon for a few years, but liked Alberta better. (Mrs. Zimmerman died in the twenties.) Some years after his wife's death he returned to Kansas, remarried, and returned to his cottage where they lived until they retired in Sylvan Lake. He died there in 1957 at the age of 91 years.

Ernest and Marie Spycher carried on with the dairy of shorthorns until they moved to the farm now owned by their son Ernest in 1941, and built their fine new home which still is a family home. They had six children. Arnold who met with accidental death while hunting gophers at the age of 18. Chris who married Mabel Neil and now owns the Zimmerman land. They have two daughters, Ivy and Carol, and a son Jack who suffered a tragic death in northern B.C. as a young man. Godfrey married Ramona Anderson but died suddenly of a heart attack while still a young man, leaving four young children, Rodney, Audrey, Donna, and Eddie for Ramona to raise. Ernest married Margaret Knefflie and they have five children, Bruce, Glen, Susan, Jim, and Wendy. Freda married Lon Gheseger who also died suddenly of a heart attack, leaving Freda with three small children, Barry, Dale, and Wayne. She and her family now own the cottage built by her grandfather. June married Jim MacInroy and lives in Port Albernie, B.C. They have 4 children, Debbie, Donald, Terry and Bradley.

Ernest Spycher had come over from Switzerland as a young man with a friend of the Zimmermans who was visiting there. He went first to Oklahoma where this friend lived, then came later to the Swiss settlement in Kansas and worked for Anna (Begert) and her husband for many years. He and John Thierstein came to Canada looking for land in 1911. Ernest worked for Chris Zimmerman during the summer and for Mr. Hlup at the MacPherson saw mill west of Bentley during the winter. Here the romance started, and he and Marie were married in 1914; and he and Marie's father farmed as partners.

Ernest took an active interest in community affairs. He had a part in the organizing of the Wheat Pool elevator in Bentley, and helped build the first Pentecostal Church in Bentley. He and his wife have been active members ever since, with Ernest serving on the church board from the beginning until he became an honorary board member until his death. Marie is the last living member of the original group. Their sons Christian and Godfrey, moved the building that was to be the Sylvan Lake Pentecostal Church from near the Lakewood Service to its present site; and Chris was on the building committee that transformed it into a church which is still in use today.

After Ernest Jr. returned from service in the army in the second world war he lived with his parents on the farm he now owns. A few years after his marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Spycher retired to their home in Bentley near their family, church, and friends. Here they enjoyed many happy years until Mr. Spycher's death. Mrs. Spycher still lives in her own home taking an active part in the work of her church and her family, and enjoying visits from her old friends and neighbors. She had just returned from a trip to Nevada where she helped her sister celebrate her 91st birthday as this was written.

General Interest



Oxen Teams, 1907. Left: Henry Weber; Right: Bert.



Albert Peck cutting brush, May, 1942.



Road Maintenance: Jack Zimmerman, Bud, Warren and Elsie.



Mr. and Mrs. Chris Riis spinning wool that Mr. Riis had carded.



Four Oldtimers: L. to R.: Elizabeth Pickering, Harry Pickering, Stella Zimmerman, Mrs. E. Wigmore, August, 1961.



Harry Pickering's first driving lesson. Teacher: Billy Redpath, Edmonton.



The great catch from the Blindman River, 1923, Chris Riis.



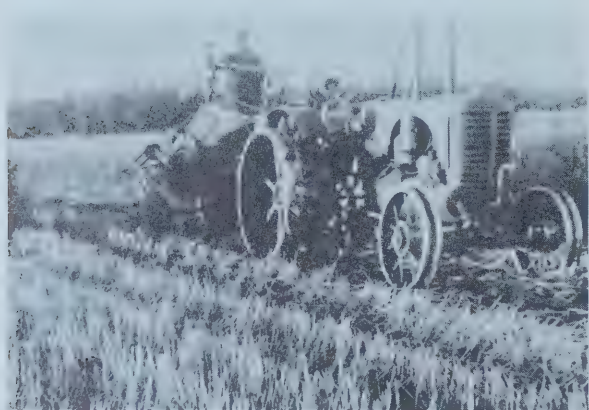
Murray and Hazel Bigam, Henry Peterson and George Bigam touring around about 1920. The Bigam home in the background.



Clearing bush, 1923. A chain was put around a clump of bush. Mother (Marion Riis) drove the horses while Dad (Chris Riis) and son Chris chopped at the roots.



Grain in stooks, Riis farm, about 1930.



Ernest Spycher Sr. with his horse drawn binder converted to a one man power driven binder. Note the binder steering wheel connection to tractor.



Lloyd Herman, Ralph Schmidt, Pete Ammeter, Johnnie Van Slyke, April 28, 1948. Plow designed by the Van Slykes and built by Lloyd Herman.



Ernie Spycher Sr. ready to start plowing, about 1935.



Stacking hay, 1945, overhead sweep. Henry, Billie and Norman Pickering, Jim Park, Ray Schmidt.



Summer, 1951. Stuck on grassland due to extreme wet conditions. Chris Spycher, Buck Tatlock, Ernie Spycher, Ben Reiswig, Jim Park and son Lavern.



Grand Opening Attracts Full House. An estimated 1500 people attended the grand opening of the new Burnt Lake Livestock Market. Billy Pickering, yard foreman and one of the original staff that has been employed since 1949, cut the ribbon (above). The man with the microphone is Ron Sim, market manager.



These are some of the Riis' three dollar pigs of 1923.



Billie, Norman Pickering, Ben Reiswig, Bob Pickering, Mike Peterson and Bob's son. A harvest bee after Henry's heart attack. Several others were there as well.

THE RED DEER A

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RED DEER, ALBERTA, WEDNESDAY, JUNE



NINE LONG-MARRIED FRIENDSHIP CLUB COUPLES

Hundreds of years of married life are represented in the picture of nine couples in the Red Deer Friendship Club. They are couples who have passed their 50th Golden Wedding anniversaries and some of them have been married round 60 years. Left to right, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Burns, Mr. and Mrs. George

Everett, Mr. and Mrs. Otto Hueppelheuser, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Glover, Mr. and Mrs. George Bailey, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Wells, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Stewart, Mr. and Mrs. William Schmidt and Mr. and Mrs. George Stagg.

Nine Long-Married Friendship Club Couples. Hundreds of years of married life are represented in the picture of nine couples in the Red Deer Friendship Club. They are the couples who have passed their 50th Golden Wedding anniversaries and some of them have been married around 60 years. L. to R.: Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Burns, Mr. and Mrs. George Everett, Mr. and Mrs. Otto Hueppelheuser, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Glover, Mr. and Mrs. George Bailey, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Wells, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Stewart, Mr. and Mrs. William Schmidt and Mr. and Mrs. George Stagg.



Zimmerman and Spycher threshing outfit on the Reiter farm. Mr. Spycher on tractor, Katie Farrell in centre.



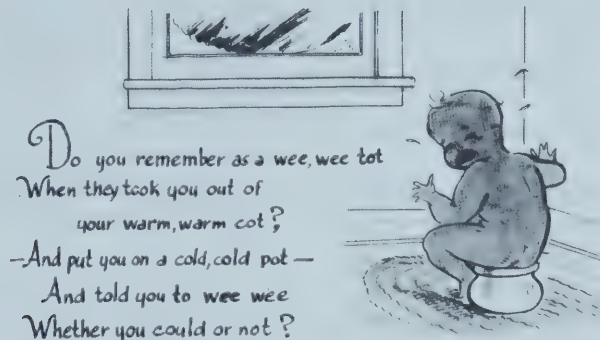
The Helping Hands, 1961. A work bee on the J. Park farm after his accident. Those visible: Henry Pickering, Josh Wilkins, Howard Long, Philip Schmidt, Bob Pickering, Lloyd Herman, Don Surratt, Orville Van Slyke, Cliff Long, Sam Bahler, Ernie Walter, Hazel Hunt. More of the Pickering's, Ben Reiswig, the Ironsides and others were also there stacking green feed.



Helping hands at the Jim Park farm, 1961: Mina Reiswig, Ruth Van Slyke, Maurice Hunt, Ben Reiswig, John Van Slyke, Pete Ammeter, Henry Pickering, Bill Pickering, Murray Peterson, Archie Carlyle, Floyd Van Slyke, Gib Van Slyke.



Durham Ball Team — Early 1950's. Back row: Lyle Reiswig, Ray Schmidt, Orville Van Slyke. 2nd row: Doug Keith, Johnny Sjare, Jim Ward, Louis Maga, Bud Zimmerman. Front row: Fred Schmidt, Bob Pickering, Glen Thompson, and Norman Pickering.



©257

Ode to Alberta

by Jane Hunt

Dear Alberta, How oft I dream of thee
and of those days that are gone by
I wandered young and free
They tell me British Columbia is a better place
On account of its milder weather
But give me dear Alberta where the folks get
All together.
I miss my lovely neighbors
Who were so good and kind
But Heaven will reward them
When life's journey ends.
I loved your beautiful moonlight nights
That cast their shadow o'er hill and glen
and far flung tree
Where memory plays the greater part
To friends who are so far away.
Alberta, the land of sunshine
with its golden fields of grain
Its rivers and lakes and streams
Forever flow on and on
Into the land of my dreams.

Life

Somehow I've always noticed perhaps you've
noticed too,
It's a funny world we live in no matter what we do.
We are criticized by many and there is not a single
chance,
Of pleasing everybody under any circumstance.
This pleasing games a dandy you may try your level
best,
To satisfy and gratify and meet with every test,
That ever yet has been designed and when at last
you're through.
You will find you'er always criticized no matter what
you do.
For instance you have seen the man who's been a
great success,
He is criticized by many and consorted more or less.
And then the failure you've observed he gets it just
the same,
He is criticized before he lost the game.
And so it always seemed to me the world was sort of
queer,
You get it if you do or don't the while you're living
here.

But at the journey's end there is hope if you can only
wait,
For on the day you're laid away they will all say you
were great.

by J. D. Ansley

A Child is Loaned

"I'll lend you for a little time a
child of Mine," He said,
"For you to love the while he lives
and mourn for when he's dead.
It may be six or seven years, or
twenty-two or three,
But will you, till I call him back
take care of him for Me?
He'll bring his charms to gladden
you; and should his stay be brief,
You'll have his lovely memories as
solace for your grief.
I cannot promise he will stay,
since all from earth return,
But there are lessons taught down
there I want this child to learn.
I've looked this wide world over in
My search for teachers true,
And from the throngs that crowd
life's lanes, I have selected you.
Now will you give him all your
love, nor think the labor vain,
Nor hate Me when I come to call
and take him back again?
I fancied that I heard them say;
"Dear Lord, your will be done.
For all the joy your child shall
bring, the risk of grief we'll run;
We'll shelter him with tenderness,
we'll love him while we may;
And for the happiness we've
known, forever grateful stay.
But should the angels call for him
much sooner than we've planned,
We'll brave the bitter grief that
comes and try to understand."

Author Unknown.

I would like to dedicate this poem to all the
mothers and fathers who have lost a young son or
daughter, with the hope it will bring a measure of
comfort to them.

Sent in by Mrs. Freda Bertram.

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Harvey, Ross	215	Louis, J. H.	228	Petro, Will	403
Haslam, Monty	216	Ludwig, Harold	397	Phanmuller, Ken	259
Hazlett, James (Paddy)	46			Philip, Archie	80
Hazlett, James	47	MacDonell, Donald	231	Philip, Henrietta	79
Hazlett, Thomas	47	Maga, D. J.	232	Philip, Norman	79
Hazlett, William	49	Maga, William	233	Phillion, Jerry	259
Heagle	112	Maga, Mike	234	Pickering, Art	487
Heenan, William	463	Maga, Louis	235	Pickering, Henry Sr.	479
Heidebrecht	112	Mahoney, Dan	398	Pickering, Henry Jr.	481
Herder, Charles	374	Malinic Family	237	Pickering, John	482
Herder, Robert	375	Malinic, J.	239	Pickering, Norman	484
Herman, Pete	378	Marion, Narcisse	242	Pickering, Robert Sr.	485
Hermay, Emile	49	Masterson, Vincent	471	Pickering, Robert Jr.	485
Heywood	112	Matthews, Robert	243	Pickering, William Sr.	478
Hodgson, Robert, Ronald	380	Mayberry, Wilton	62	Pickering, William Jr.	477
Holmes	112	McBlane, Alexander	63	Plante, Bernie	260
Hughes, Wayne	216	McBlane, Alex	244	Plasterer,	112
Hunt, William	216	McBlane, Duncan, William	243	Plumb, Amos	81
Hunter, Gordon	465	McDonald, John	223	Plumb, Edwin	80
Huss, W.	217	McEwen, William	245	Plumb, Fred	407
		McGee, J. H.	246	Plunkett, Don	260
Ilcisin, Nick	382	McGovern, Terrance	246	Podridske, James	85
Ingram	112	McKinnon, James	63	Pomerleau, Alcide	85
		McKinnon, Ross	63	Pomerleau, Fred	84
Jackson, ASA	52	McKinnon, Walter	63	Pomerleau, Fernand	84
Jahraus, A. E.	53	McLeod Family	247	Pomerleau, Rene	85
Jano, Don	217	McLeod, Donald	399	Pomerleau, Theodule	81
Jarvis, G. C.	218	McWade, Jack	400	Popowicz, Michael	86
Jensen Bros.	219	Melrose	112	Pendergast, J. C.	87
Johansen, Knud	220	Metcalfe, Al	248	Prentice, Lloyd	260
Johanson, Dora	144	Metz, Henry	248	Prentice, Roy M.	262
Johnson, Fred	383	Miller, Leon	64	Prevo, Louis	408
Johnson, Frank	384	Miller, Levi E.	249	Prevo, Bill	409
Jones, Alfred Elis	222	Milne, Alex	64		
		Milne, William	68	Rabidou, Andrew	412
Kask, Alexander	385	Milne, William F.	68	Ramsey, Murel	412
				Ray, F. L.	87

Reed, Ernest	87	Selstrom, Hugo	419	Tinner, Jack	290
Reed, Hannah	129	Schuler, W. Robert	104	Tisdale, H.	107
Reid, Peter	88	Silverberg, William	154	Tooley, Jack Yeoman	290
Reiser, George	415	Sirois, Leo	105	Truant, Dino	292
Reiswig, Ben	490	Sjare, Becky	420	Trudel, Benoit	108
Reiswig, Emmanuel	492	Sjare, Bernard	422	Turner, William	409
Revesz, Mike	262	Sjare, John	424		
Reveyrand, Louis	262	Skelton	112	Van Slyke, Floyd	293
Rhine, Lewis	88	Smith, Bill	275	Van Slyke, J. O.	509
Rick, Charles	492	Smith, W. T.	275	Veal, Herman	294
Rich, William H.	263	Soderburg, Harold	146	Vickers	112
Richardson, Charles	89	Soderman, Carl	276		
Richardson, Harry	89	Soley, John	277	Walker, Lyle	295
Riis, Chris Jr., Sr.	495	Soley, William	279	Wall, Gus	434
Rioux, Arthur	89	Sonnenberg, Hardy	426	Walter, Ernie	436
Robinson, Art, Evan	265	Sparks, James	280	Walters, Peter	434
Robinson	112	Spieght	112	Ward, Austin	299
Robson, George	91	Spycher, Christian	505	Ward, Doris	298
Rogers, Arthur	91	Spycher, Ernest Jr.	506	Ward, George	295
Rogers, George Edward	267	Spycher, Ernest Sr.	517	Ward, Henry	437
Roth, Andrew	92	Stamm, Harley	281	Warren, John, Harry	299
Roth, Bernard Jr.	98	Staples Family	281	Warren, James	300
Roth, Carl	102	Steer, Franklin, Clifford (Cap)	427	Weber, Henry	512
Roth, Elizabeth	98	Stent, H. S.	105	Wentworth, Willis	301
Roth, Frances	95	St. Peter, Pete	428	Werner, W. F.	301
Roth, George	267	Stephenson, Al	282	White, Henry	438
Roth, Hazel	270	Stevenson, John	282	Whitehead, Arthur, Arvid	302
Roth, Helen	95	Stewart, Billie	201	Wiart, Tony	108
Roth, Joe Jr.	270	Stewart, Mrs. Roberta	105	Wicks, Trevor	511
Roth, Joseph P.	99	Stewart, James H.	284	Wiley, Marvin	304
Roth, Justine	97	Stewart, William F.	282	Wilkins, F. E.	109
Roth, Rosemary	96	Stewart, Robert	284	Wilkins, George	109
Rousseau, Napoleon	415	Stewart, William	286	Wilkins, Josh.	512
Rowbotham, Walter	103	Stonhouse, Sir Arthur	105	Wilkins, Ralph V.	304
Roy, Ernest	103	Stork, Helmut	286	Wilkins, Rodney	514
Rozier, Julien	415	Straub, Fred	286	Wilkenson	112
Rozier, George	416	Strong, Harry	128	Wills, Ernest, John	439
		Symes, Thomas	106	Wilson, Alvin	440
Salomons, George	272			Wilson, Robert	110
Sanderson	112	Tanche, Jack	428	Woodrow	112
Schenk, Charles, Bernard	416	Tatlock, Arthur	508	Woof, William, Richard	306
Schmidt, Emil	498	Tatlock, Burnell	507	Wright, James	111
Schmidt, Philip	504	Tettolowski, Otto	287	Wright, Lewis	112
Schmidt, William	502	Theakston, George	288	Wright, Theodore	112
Schritt, Hans	273	Thevenaz, Maurice, Mitch	509	Wyatt, Douglas (Frank)	514
Schoonover	417	Thompson, Glen	428		
Scott, Art	273	Thompson, Jack, Hal	289	Zimmerman, Chris	517
Scott, William	417	Thompson, Walter	106	Zimmerman, John	515

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